

VaPE

VERIFYING A POTENTIAL EXPOSURE: *A Guidance Resource for Providers*

PATIENT ENGAGEMENT AND SURVEILLANCE

E-cigarette use, or vaping, is emerging as a serious health risk, but the full extent of this public health threat remains unknown – even as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tracks a growing number of deaths from serious lung disease associated with e-cigarettes or vaping.

The New Jersey Hospital Association urges the provider community to become partners in identifying e-cigarette or vaping use and building a foundation of reliable data to gauge this threat in our communities.

This resource provides guidance to ensure the proper capture and documentation of e-cigarette, or vaping use data. Verifying a potential exposure (VaPE) is an essential part of addressing the threat and protecting the health of the people of New Jersey.

› Patient Engagement

The conversation between physician and patient is essential when it comes to protecting the health of the people of New Jersey. Knowing what to ask and communicating the risks is at the core of engaging patients in their long-term health.

Start the Conversation – E-cigarettes and vaping products are unsafe for youths, young adults and women who are pregnant. All tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and vapes, carry a risk. Ask your patients about respiratory, gastrointestinal and constitutional symptoms. For details on evaluating and caring for patients, please visit

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease/healthcare-providers/pdfs/evaluating-caring-evali-patients.pdf

Communicate the Risks – Since the specific reasons for lung injury are not yet fully known, the CDC recommends that individuals should refrain from using all e-cigarette or vaping products. If someone continues to use an e-cigarette or vaping product, they should not purchase products off the street or modify or add substances to products that are not intended by the manufacturer.

Document the Record – If a patient verifies e-cigarette use or vaping, it's important to document that information in the patient record. That notation must be made by a physician, physician assistant or advance practice nurse in order for coders to add the appropriate vaping code to the discharge record. That data is very important to help understand the extent of the vaping problem in our communities.

› Surveillance

Reporting a potential exposure helps strengthen the investigation into this growing outbreak. The e-cigarette investigation spans nearly every state in the nation, with a widening scope of brands, substances and products. Deaths related to e-cigarette or vaping product use-associated lung injury (EVALI) continue to be reported.

Call and Report – The New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) serves as the main contact for clinicians who are reporting suspected cases of lung injury in persons who report e-cigarette or vaping use. Call NJPIES at 800-222-1222 with questions. Providers reporting a possible case of lung injury related to e-cigarette or vaping use are encouraged to complete the New Jersey Department of Health's (NJDOH) E-cigarette/Vaping and Lung Injury Investigation Case Report Form. This form is intended to aid NJDOH staff in conducting investigations.

https://www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/tobacco/vaping/hcp/NJDOH_Vaping_Lung_Injury_Case_Report_Form_FILLABLE_PDF_FINAL.108001.pdf

For up-to-date information on clinical evaluation, treatment and follow-up and public health clinical and product sample testing, please visit https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease/healthcare-providers/index.html

