

## USE OF VAPING DEVICES IN PRISONS (NOVEMBER 2017)

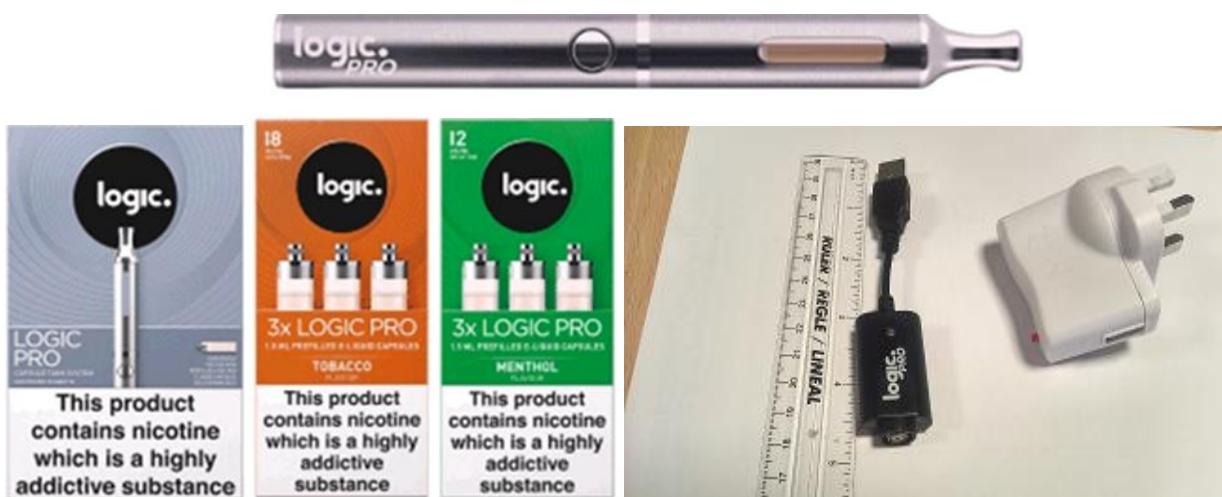
### A FACTSHEET FOR GUIDANCE OF STAFF IN PRISONS

HMPPS have agreed to make the rechargeable vaping devices piloted in Wales available across the whole estate. Vape devices are now available through the canteen and as a reception pack in all prisons apart from the under 18 estate.

This factsheet is intended to provide briefing on the product and processes to be followed.

#### The approved available product

- The product is the Pro-Logic rechargeable vape device which can be refilled using pre-sealed capsules and is recharged using a USB adapter (see below).



#### Vape Technique

- Vapes play an important part in the smoke free roll out.
- To support prisoners to get the most benefit from vapes, as well as value for money, it is recommended that information and support is provided to show them how to use the vape device correctly.
- An information leaflet is included with the product, but prisoners have found additional support useful.
- A leaflet 'Using your E-Cigarette' detailing how to use an e-cigarette has been produced and can be found on the 'Smoke Free Prisons' group intranet page via this link - <https://intranet.noms.gsi.gov.uk/groups/smoke-free-prisons/smoke-free-e-cigarette-posters>.

## Pricing

- Vape products are sold separately and prisoners will need to buy a vape device, a USB charging plug and a supply of refillable capsules to get started.
- Following this they will only need to buy the refillable capsules each week. Best advice suggests that on average one capsule should last one to two days, dependent on use.
- The start-up costs are outlined in the table below:

M220674	Logic Pro Device	n/a	£6.99
M220672	Logic Pro Capsules 3pk Tobacco	18mg	£3.99
M220649	Logic Pro Capsules 3pk Menthol	12mg	£3.99
M221514	USB Charging Plug	n/a	£2.99

- Due to the initial costs of a starter vape pack, some prisons are offering a range of ways to pay including payment plans for those with limited funds. Suggested payment options include:
  - Direct payment from Spends Account
  - Direct payment from Private Account
  - Savings Scheme – an agreed amount of money is set aside each week until sufficient funds are available
  - Payment plan – prison advances the costs of a starter pack, which is repaid in small amounts each week
- Phil Cople and his Executive Team have decided that payment schemes must be in place for those with insufficient funds. Where advances are used, recovery of the monies is at a rate similar to that currently used for tobacco reception packs.

## Vape Product Range

- New vape devices are currently being tested and there are plans to provide refill capsules in different flavours and strengths before the end of the year.
- Changes to the product range will be communicated to establishments by Prison Retail.

## Purchase and Possession Limits

- Prisoners will be able to buy 1 device, 1 charger and 3 refill packs via the canteen each week; in possession limits can be determined locally.
- It is possible that prisoners will share chargers to save money and you will need to take a view on the acceptability of this practice.
- Once ordered, the Pro Logic device and USB adaptor will be delivered to your reception unless you make local arrangements to have these items placed in canteen bags. It can be added to the individual's property card and a selection of capsules will be included in the buffer box.

## **Returns Policy**

- If a device is found to be faulty then the individual has up to 30 days to return it. If the item was purchased within this time frame, and it is the first time it has been returned, then an automatic refund/replacement will be issued.
- If the item is highlighted as faulty **after** 30 Days, the prisoner must be advised to follow the process as highlighted in the Manufacturer's Warranty. All costs associated with the return post 30 days will be at the expense of the prisoner.

## **PAT Testing**

- During the trials in Wales HMPPS were informed that there is no legal obligation to PAT test these products. Establishments that have a DHL main workshop will have a stock of USB adaptors and Pro Logic devices in their High Value Room.

## **Transfers**

- In cases where a prisoner in possession of a vape is moving between prisons, any vaping device, USB adaptor plug and unused refill capsules will be managed as in-possession property.

## **Risk Management**

- In line with the Minimum Service Officer (MSO) for Stop Smoking Services and Support in Custody, Governors are reminded that a risk assessment is required for all smokers who have specific challenges around co-morbidity and risk.
- Examples include substance misuse, learning difficulties, self-harm, mental health, long term significant tobacco use or prescribed specified medications to ensure nicotine withdrawal is appropriately managed and medication adjustments are made when they stop smoking. This includes those who choose to purchase e-cigarettes, vapes or NRT from the prison canteen.
- Please ensure you have robust information sharing processes in place with Heads of Healthcare to manage high risk individuals who stop smoking.

## **Sharing Vapes**

- The risk of transmission of disease from sharing vaping devices is small, however it is possible for blood or saliva to be passed between individuals sharing a vape device so we do not recommend the sharing of these products.

## **Suspected side effects and safety concerns**

- The Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is working with Trading Standards to ensure products on the UK market meet acceptable safety standards. In a recent update, the MHRA have requested that any adverse effects experienced by people using e-cigarettes or vapes be reported to them using the Yellow Card reporting system.
- This includes reporting defects and harm to non-users and children, e.g. accidental poisoning.

- The process for reporting adverse effects from e-cigarettes or vapes in custody should be agreed with your Head of Healthcare.

### **Controls**

- During trials, vape products were absorbed into the prison economy very quickly so systems to control and manage access to vapes and mitigate the risks associated with theft, debt and the illicit economy are required.
- Some prisons have introduced a range of controls, either in combination or individually, to support the successful introduction of vapes such as:
  - Etching vape devices & plugs with prison and issue number
  - Recording on property cards
  - Vape Compacts

### **Further advice and contacts**

**Any problems or queries please contact any member of the National Smoke Free Team:**

- Bernie Lauff: E-Cigarettes lead (Bernie.lauff@hmpr.gsi.gov.uk)
- Charlotte Wright: National Project Lead (charlotte.wright@hmpr.gsi.gov.uk)
- Steve Crane: Retail Support Manager ([steven.crane@noms.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:steven.crane@noms.gsi.gov.uk))
- Samantha Hughes: Health, Well Being and Substance Misuse Lead (Samantha.hughes@noms.gsi.gov.uk)

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