**Title:** Cigarette smoking patterns of cardiology and respiratory inpatients at a university teaching hospital

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**Body:** Background: Smoking cessation is key in reducing cardio-respiratory disease and is most effectively achieved via formal cessation services. Knowledge of smoking prevalence, and referral patterns in inpatients would facilitate cessation efforts in this population. Aims: To assess smoking prevalence by examining documentation in acute admissions and elicit whether smokers are referred for cessation. Methods: A snapshot of all cardio-respiratory inpatients was taken on a single day looking at medical and nursing records of smoking. Smokers were then asked to corroborate if they were advised or referred. Results: 150 patients (83 respiratory, 67 cardiology) were identified. In the medical notes, smoking status was unrecorded in 31 (20.7%) patients. Of the remaining 119, 17 (14.3%) were smokers, none had a record of cessation advice or referral. Nursing records of smoking status were incomplete in 16 (10.7%) cases and reported 18 (13.4%) smokers of whom 7 were advised to quit and 2 referred. Combining this data with direct questioning, revealed 20 (14.0%) smokers in total. Of these only 5 (25.0%) received cessation advice and 3 (15.0%) referred, all of whom by nurses. The prevalence of smokers was higher on respiratory (18.4%) compared to cardiology (9.0%) wards. Conclusion: The smoking prevalence of inpatients was identical to that of age-matched individuals in England, however in respiratory inpatients it was higher. Nursing documentation and smoking cessation efforts were superior to those of doctors, however overall referral rates were low. Staff require further training on effective smoking cessation methods and how to seize the opportunity when smokers are inpatients.