

**PROTOCOL TITLE:** Hybrid Type 1 Effectiveness-Implementation Trial of a Proactive Smoking Cessation Electronic Visit for Scalable Delivery via Primary Care

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## 1.0 Objectives / Specific Aims

We will conduct a two-arm clinic-randomized clinical trial (N=672) to examine the effectiveness of a smoking cessation electronic visit (e-visit) vs. treatment as usual (TAU) for smoking cessation across 21 MUSC primary care practices. Main outcomes include: 1) evidence-based smoking cessation treatment utilization (medication, psychosocial cessation counseling), 2) reduction in cigarettes per day, and 3) biochemically verified 7-day point prevalence abstinence (PPA) at six-month follow-up. We hypothesize that smokers randomized to the e-visit condition will have significantly better cessation outcomes relative to TAU. Secondary outcomes will focus on implementation of the e-visit at the patient, provider, and organizational levels.

## 2.0 Background

Cigarette smoking causes 480,000 premature deaths each year in the United States, of which 36% are due to cancer. Two-thirds of smokers want to quit, but fewer than one-third make a quit attempt using an evidence-based approach. Consequently, fewer than one in ten smokers report quitting successfully in the last year. Comprehensive dissemination strategies are needed to increase utilization of evidence-based cessation treatments and improve cessation among adult smokers. The vast majority (>70%) of smokers visit a primary care physician (PCP) at least once per year. As such, primary care offers a ripe opportunity through which to proactively deliver cessation treatment to adult smokers. All primary care practices that qualify for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reimbursement are required to maintain electronic health records (EHRs) with coded smoking status data for adult patients. These data can be utilized to proactively identify smokers and deliver treatment. Our team recently completed a pilot study to develop, refine, and preliminarily evaluate a proactive asynchronous smoking cessation electronic visit (e-visit) delivered via the EHR. The goal of the e-visit is to automate best practice guidelines for cessation treatment via primary care to ensure that all smokers receive an evidence-based intervention. An initial baseline e-visit gathers information about smoking history and motivation to quit, followed by an algorithm to determine the best FDA-approved cessation medication to prescribe. A one-month follow-up e-visit assesses progress toward cessation. Clinical outcomes of our pilot (N=51) were promising. At study end (three months), e-visit participants, relative to treatment as usual (TAU), were 4.7 times more likely to have used a cessation medication, 4.1 times more likely to have reduced their cigarettes per day by >50%, and 4.2 times more likely to report 7-day point prevalence abstinence. Feasibility outcomes were similarly promising, with >85% of e-visit participants reporting that they found the e-visit easy to use, would use an e-visit again, and trusted their provider with their care during the e-visit. We now propose a Hybrid Type I effectiveness-implementation trial to comprehensively assess e-visit effectiveness relative to TAU while simultaneously evaluating implementation when delivered across primary care settings. Effectiveness outcomes will be assessed through 6-months of follow-up and include: 1) evidence-based cessation treatment utilization, 2) reduction in cigarettes per day, and 3) biochemically verified 7-day point prevalence abstinence. Implementation outcomes will be assessed at patient, provider, and organizational levels. This program of research has the potential for broad and direct benefits to: 1) smokers, who will have increased treatment access, 2) PCPs, who can more efficiently treat smokers while also having an additional reimbursable service, and 3) care systems, who can improve compliance with Joint Commission recommendations for cessation treatment.

## 3.0 Intervention to be studied

**Smoking Cessation E-Visit:** The goal of the e-visit is to automate the 5As to ensure that all smokers receive treatment. After completing screening and consent, adult smokers recruited from clinics assigned to the e-visit condition will be automatically linked to initiate an asynchronous cessation e-visit via MyChart. The baseline e-visit will gather information about smoking history and motivation to quit, followed by an algorithm to determine the best FDA-approved cessation medication (i.e., NRT, varenicline, bupropion).

This algorithm is based on our team's prior research<sup>1-3</sup> and evidence-based guidelines<sup>4</sup>. It uses branching logic to prioritize the most efficacious medications (varenicline and combination NRT), while tailoring recommendations based on contraindications and patient preference. The outcome is a medication recommendation displayed to the patient with a personalized rationale. All medication recommendations are provided in conjunction with a referral to the quitline for psychosocial counseling. The patient can agree with the recommendation or request a different treatment. E-visit results are automatically sent to the PCP's in-basket, who will have 48 business hours to respond. If the e-visit is not responded to within this timeframe, it will be routed to MUSC's e-visit care team, which is organizationally housed in the ED and available 24/7. Providers will open the e-visit from their in-basket, review the e-visit and its algorithm outcome (e.g., medication recommendation), review the chart for contraindications to that outcome, agree or disagree with the recommendation, respond to the patient via MyChart with instructions, and e-prescribe (if indicated) medication. Varenicline, a class C medication, may be provided as a result of the e-visit. Because risks during pregnancy related to Varenicline are unknown, all females of childbearing potential will subsequently be asked if they would be willing to complete a pregnancy test that will be mailed to them. Females of childbearing potential who report a positive pregnancy test will not be prescribed Varenicline. All medications will be prescribed on label to the patient's pharmacy of record, consistent with procedures from our pilot, and will be billed as in usual practice (i.e., to the patient's insurance if insured). Participants are not required to obtain their prescribed medication from their pharmacy or to take the medication as part of their participation in this study. Whether a participant receives their prescribed medication and reasons for non-receipt (e.g., medication cost) will be tracked as a study outcome via self-report follow-up assessments. In addition to the quitline referral for psychosocial counseling, all responses from providers to patients will also include a digital copy of NCI's *Clearing the Air: Quit Smoking Today*<sup>5</sup>. In a recent trial, smokers who were provided with *Clearing the Air* had a 12% abstinence rate at 6 months<sup>6</sup>.

**There will be direct contact between the PCP and patient prior to prescription, either via secure MyChart messaging or telephone, depending on the provider's preference and need for information.**

If contraindications are present (e.g., a contraindicated medication is noted in the EHR) or if the patient reports untreated health concerns requiring attention (e.g., cough with blood), electronic contact will be supplemented with phone and/or in person contact.

All participants will be scheduled for a follow-up e-visit one month later. The purpose of the 1-month e-visit is to assess progress toward cessation and troubleshoot barriers consistent with 5As guidelines to Arrange follow-up. This e-visit will begin by assessing current smoking status, quit attempts in the last month, and quit duration. Subsequently, the participant will report: 1) whether they received a cessation medication following baseline, 2) whether they are currently taking the medication, and 3) whether they have any questions/concerns. Participants will be asked if they are interested in any other treatment options, including a medication refill. Results will be sent to providers and reviewed and responded to in the same manner as the baseline e-visit.

During the first three months following study startup, Drs. Dahne, Diaz, and Player will provide training on the smoking cessation e-visit to all PCPs affiliated with Primary Care ICCE clinics randomized to the e-visit condition. All MUSC Primary Care ICCE providers already respond to e-visits. Within the last year alone, MUSC PCPs have responded to 3,412 e-visits. Thus, additional training herein will focus on the specific use of the smoking cessation e-visit and its decision-support algorithm. All ICCE clinics have monthly all-staff meetings, during which training will occur. Trainings will be recorded and distributed following meetings. Drs. Dahne, Diaz, and Player will also develop a brief Panopto video describing the workflow and tip sheets with overviews of e-visit functionality. These tip sheets will include information on smartphrases developed to improve the ease with which e-visits can be responded to (e.g., with information regarding varenicline dosing and links to additional information). These procedures are consistent with the ICCE's current training approaches which have been successful in promoting the adoption of new workflows. For example, this approach was used to train providers in the use of virtual check-ins and video visits during the COVID-19 pandemic and resulted in primary care providing 75.1% of historical in-person volume via virtual channels within two weeks of implementation. MUSC's Primary Care ICCE currently employs 154 PCPs and we expect that two-thirds of providers will be affiliated with clinics randomized to the e-visit condition. Training recordings and tip sheets will be provided to new hires

in e-visit clinics upon onboarding. Similar training will be provided to MUSC's e-visit care team, housed in the ED, which will be responsible for responding to any e-visits not responded to within 48-hours by a patient's own PCP. It is important to note that this same training approach has been taken by Drs. Diaz and Player to train MUSC's PCPs and the e-visit care team in delivery of all other e-visits currently available in MUSC's e-visit primary care menu (e.g., for back pain, nosebleed, etc.). Because the workflow for this e-visit mirrors that of other e-visits, we believe it can likely be adopted with minimal training.

**TAU:** TAU mimics existing standard care. Participants recruited from clinics assigned to TAU will be linked to a screen that includes information on the state quitline, education about the importance of quitting, and a recommendation to contact their PCP to discuss quitting smoking. This same approach was utilized in our pilot trial. During the effectiveness portion of this study, the e-visit will only be available within the context of this trial. Thus, TAU participants will not receive the e-visit during the effectiveness trial. However, TAU participants may be offered the e-visit during the Year 5 sustainability evaluation if they are smoking at that time.

#### 4.0 Study Endpoints (if applicable)

Primary outcome variables include:

- Cigarette smoking, use of other tobacco products (e.g., e-cigarettes), and quit attempts/quit duration will be assessed at each follow-up using a timeline followback for the last 6-months at baseline and since prior follow-up for each subsequent assessment. Self-reported smoking will be biochemically verified via breath CO, with abstinence defined as CO of  $\leq 4$ ppm. Self-report and CO data will be utilized together to determine 7-day PPA
- Treatment utilization will be assessed via self-report. At each follow-up, participants in both groups will be queried for: 1) use of a cessation medication since the last assessment, 2) how the medication was obtained (e.g., via the study or other outlet), and 3) receipt of the 5As from their PCP.
- Implementation: We will use mixed methods to concurrently assess implementation during our effectiveness trial at patient, provider, and organizational levels. Our implementation framework is guided by the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR), which provides a comprehensive, pragmatic approach to understand implementation barriers, facilitators and processes. Specific implementation outcomes include: acceptability, adoption, fidelity, implementation cost, penetration, and sustainability.

#### 5.0 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria/ Study Population

Participants will complete a REDCap survey to be screened for eligibility and we will use cold-contact recruitment approaches herein.

Inclusion criteria: 1) current smoking, defined as 5+ cigarettes/day, for 20+ days out of the last 30, for the last 6+ months, 2) age 18+, 3) enrolled in MyChart or willing to enroll, 4) possess a valid e-mail address that is checked daily to access assessments and MyChart messages, 5) owner of an iOS or Android smartphone to provide remote CO (81% of U.S. adults<sup>7</sup>, 71% of rural residents<sup>8</sup>, 87% of Medicaid beneficiaries<sup>9</sup>, and 71% with incomes  $< \$30k/year$ <sup>8</sup> own smartphones; thus, we do not believe representativeness will be substantially reduced), 6) have a valid mailing address, and 7) English fluency. Exclusion criteria: Use of an FDA-approved cessation medication in the last 30 days.

#### 6.0 Number of Subjects

We will recruit up to 672 subjects. The first 5 participants will be assigned to the e-visit group for usability testing.

## 7.0 Setting

Research will be conducted remotely via REDCap and MyChart. Study participants will be recruited from clinics affiliated with MUSC's Primary Care Integrated Center of Clinical Excellence (ICCE), which is comprised of 21 unique clinics across the Department of Family Medicine (DFM), University Internal Medicine (UIM) and Carolina Family Care (CFC).

## 8.0 Recruitment Methods

Participants will be recruited in the following ways:

- 1) Cold-contact Recruitment: We will submit a research data request to obtain a recruitment report of MUSC patients who potentially meet eligibility criteria. We will not cold-contact any patients who have chosen to opt-out of receiving contact about research or who have met the maximum number of contact attempts at the time of recruitment. We will use the following methods to contact participants: 1) e-mail, 2) phone, 3) text messaging, 4) MyChart.
- 2) In Clinic: Participants may be recruited in clinic either after being identified as a smoker by research personnel listed on this application.
- 3) Via advertisements (e.g., flyers) and online postings

Note, that while we include the options to recruit in clinic and via advertisements, these will be used as backup options should cold-contact recruitment be slow and/or result in an insufficient number of participants recruited.

### Recruitment of Minority Smokers

Minorities will be included in the R01 trial. All participants will be recruited from MUSC Primary Care ICCE practices, which primarily serve residents of Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkeley Counties, South Carolina. United States Census data from 2015 (the most recent Census year available) reveal that the population within Charleston County is 68.2% White, 28.1% Black, 2.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander, 1.5% reporting two or more races, and 5.0% are Hispanic or Latino. Compared to Charleston County demographics, members of racial and/or ethnic minority groups tend to be overrepresented among adult smokers treated via MUSC's Primary Care ICCE clinics. Roughly half of adult smokers treated via these clinics are members of a racial or ethnic minority group and 49.8% of participants enrolled in our e-visit pilot study identified as Black. We will monitor closely our minority recruitment goals on an ongoing basis. If the recruitment of minorities is lower than expected (< 80% projected enrollment for each minority group), efforts will be made to improve recruitment of minorities into the study through oversampling.

## 9.0 Consent Process

Remote electronic informed consent (e-consent) will be obtained from study participants via REDCap. Participants will receive a link to an electronic consent form, available via REDCap, that they can review and sign. Review of the consent form will be paired with a phone or video call with an IRB-approved member of the research team to ensure that the consent form is read in full and that all questions are answered prior to trial enrollment. As smartphone ownership is a study inclusion criterion (to provide remote CO), all participants will have internet access and thus access to the electronic consent form.

All participants will be provided with a hard copy and/or an electronic copy of the consent form. Participants will be informed that participation in this research is strictly voluntary. Informed consent will include a detailed description of the purpose and the procedure of the study emphasizing our policy regarding privacy and confidentiality and an opportunity for the individual to ask any questions or voice concerns.

## 10.0 Study Design / Methods

### **Aim 1: Effectiveness Trial of Smoking Cessation E-Visit vs. TAU**

We will conduct a Type I Hybrid effectiveness-implementation trial to comprehensively evaluate the clinical effectiveness of the smoking cessation e-visit while simultaneously assessing implementation. Adult smokers will be recruited across all primary care, family medicine, and internal medicine clinics affiliated with MUSC (21 clinics total) and will be randomized at the clinic level 2:1 to receive either the smoking cessation e-visit or TAU. Implementation will be assessed consistent with an adaptation of Proctor's framework specifically for behavioral intervention technologies.

Study participants will be recruited from MUSC's Primary Care Integrated Center of Clinical Excellence (ICCE), which is comprised of 21 unique clinics across the Department of Family Medicine (DFM), University Internal Medicine (UIM) and Carolina Family Care (CFC) with a total patient count of ~76,000 patients treated annually. ICCE clinics are distributed across Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkeley Counties and all are within Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). Among patients treated within the last year in ICCE clinics, 12.7% are residents of rural areas. Study enrollment will begin in month 4 of the trial and will continue for a total of 44 months, ending at the end of Year 4 of the award. Final study assessments will occur between months 48 and 54. With planned enrollment of 672 for the effectiveness RCT we fully expect to enroll 15-16 participants per month (4 per week) and recruit our full sample within 44 months. In our prior work, 20% of study invitations resulted in completed screenings and 80% of completed screenings resulted in an enrolled participant. As such, we will send ~100 study invitations per month ( $100 * 0.2 = 20$  completed screenings  $* 0.8 = 16$  enrolled participants) and 4,400 study invitations in total to meet recruitment milestones. All 21 ICCE clinics will serve as recruitment sites for the entire trial duration, with enrollment capped at 32 patients/clinic. Study invitations will be equally distributed across clinics with 5 invitations sent per clinic per month.

Recruitment will occur proactively and remotely via cold-contact methods. We will submit a research data request to obtain a recruitment report of MUSC patients who potentially meet eligibility criteria. The study team will not cold-contact any patients who have chosen to opt-out of receiving contact about research or who have met the maximum number of contact attempts at the time of recruitment. Participants will be contacted via the following methods: 1) e-mail, 2) phone, 3) text messaging, and 4) MyChart.

Following the initial study invitation, if the patient does not complete the screening within 72-hours, our team will contact the patient via automated phone calls and/or text messages. If interested, participants will complete an online screening within REDCap to determine eligibility. After determination of eligibility, a member of the study team will complete remote electronic informed consent (e-consent) with the participant via REDCap. Participants will receive a link to an electronic consent form, available via REDCap, that they can review and sign. Review of the consent form will be paired with a phone or video call with an IRB-approved member of the research team to ensure that the consent form is read in full and that all questions are answered prior to trial enrollment.

This Hybrid Type I trial is designed to optimize external validity while also assessing implementation. A two-arm RCT (N=672) will test e-visit effectiveness vs. TAU. Clinics will be randomized 2:1 to either e-visit or TAU and clinic randomization will be stratified based on number of PCPs per clinic. After completing consent, participants will complete baseline assessments and will be assigned to either the e-visit or TAU, based on the clinic of record for their last primary care visit. Women who indicate during the e-visit that they are currently pregnant or are planning to become pregnant within the next 6 months will not receive a medication recommendation/prescription as a result of the e-visit. These women will receive a counseling referral. Any female of childbearing potential will be asked to complete a pregnancy test. Females of childbearing potential will be mailed a pregnancy test by study staff and will receive a REDCap

form within 3 days to verify (with signature) that they completed the test and their pregnancy test results. If the participant reports a positive pregnancy test to the study team, they will not receive varenicline as a result of the e-visit. These women instead will either receive NRT, bupropion and/or counseling based on other contraindications and medication preferences indicated throughout the e-visit. In addition to baseline assessments, participants will be text messaged and/or emailed (based on preference) a REDCap link, accessible via smartphone, to complete follow-up assessments at 1-, 3-, and 6-months post-enrollment. We will require that participants complete follow-ups via their smartphone so that CO collection is seamlessly integrated with assessments. Participants in the TAU condition will not be invited to complete the e-visit, however all remaining study procedures including follow-up assessments and providing carbon monoxide breath samples will remain the same. Assessments are estimated at 20 minutes each. Participants will be compensated \$20 in electronic gift codes for completion of each follow-up assessment, \$20 for submission of CO at each follow-up timepoint, and will receive a \$100 bonus if all follow-up assessments, including self-report questionnaires and CO, are completed. A group of participants in the e-visit condition will be invited to earn an additional \$20 by participating in post-study interviews with a member of the research staff in order to gain feedback about their experiences with the e-visit. Interviews will be 30-45 minutes in length and will take place either via a phone or video call or in person. Procedures for remote remuneration are well-established through our prior trials. Cigarette smoking, use of other tobacco products (e.g., e-cigarettes), and quit attempts/quit duration will be assessed at each follow-up using a timeline followback for the last 6-months at baseline and since prior follow-up for each subsequent assessment. Nicotine dependence will be assessed at baseline via the Fagerström Test of Nicotine Dependence. Participants will report motivation to quit and confidence in quitting using a modified Contemplation Ladder. Self-reported smoking will be biochemically verified via breath CO, with abstinence defined as CO of  $\leq 4$ ppm. Self-report and CO data will be utilized together to determine 7-day PPA. Treatment utilization will be assessed via self-report. At each follow-up, participants in both groups will be queried for: 1) use of a cessation medication since the last assessment, 2) how the medication was obtained (e.g., via the study or other outlet), and 3) receipt of the 5As from their PCP. Confounders of CO including combustible cannabis use, secondhand smoke exposure, and environmental CO exposure within the last 24 hours will be assessed at all timepoints to account for factors that may falsely inflate CO. Additional data from the EHR will be captured to describe the sample including information on: 1) medical and psychiatric comorbidities, 2) medications, and 3) tobacco-related billing codes.

Because the e-visit will be delivered remotely and the trial will be conducted remotely, biochemical verification of smoking must also be completed remotely for all participants (e-visit and TAU). Following enrollment, participants will be mailed an iCO™ Smokerlyzer (personal breath CO monitor). All participants will receive their iCO™ prior to their 1-month follow-up assessment and we anticipate having CO readings for all follow-ups. To capture CO, after completing self-reports, participants will be instructed to sync their iCO™ via Bluetooth with their smartphone and provide CO (all within REDCap). These procedures have been developed and refined within Dr. Dahne's NCI R21 (CA241842). Identity will be video confirmed, and all videos will be stored within REDCap. CO readings will be date and timestamped.

Assessments:

Measure	Screening	Baseline	1-month	3-month	6-month
Screening	x				
Demographics		x			
Smoking History		x			
Smoking TLFB		x	x	x	x
FTND		x	x	x	x
Contemplation Ladder		x	x	x	x
MTQ Saliency		x	x	x	x
Use of Other Tobacco Products			x	x	x
Use of Cessation Treatment			x	x	x
Brief Physician Advice			x	x	x
E-Visit Feedback (e-visit group only)			x	x	x
Confounders/Validity of CO			x	x	x
Adverse Events			x	x	x

**Aim 2: Implementation Evaluation**

We will use mixed methods to assess implementation during our effectiveness trial at patient, provider, and organizational levels. Our implementation framework is guided by the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR), which provides a comprehensive, pragmatic approach to understand implementation barriers, facilitators and processes<sup>10</sup>. The goal is to provide an in-depth understanding of implementation acceptability, adoption, and capacity for sustainability. Specific implementation outcomes will be assessed according to Proctor's guidance<sup>11</sup>, which has recently been adapted by Hermes et al for digital intervention evaluation<sup>12</sup>. These models suggest the evaluation of key implementation factors including: acceptability, adoption, fidelity, cost, penetration, and sustainability. All self-report assessments will be administered to patients in the e-visit condition during the 3-month research assessment, following completion of baseline and 1-month e-visits. Provider questionnaires will be administered via REDCap to MUSC PCPs affiliated with clinics randomized to the e-visit condition with at least one patient enrolled in the study at 6 months following study start and again at the end of Year 4. Systems-level evaluation will utilize aggregate analytics supplemented with qualitative data. After the implementation period, a set of key informant interviews will be conducted with patients, PCPs, and stakeholders to enhance quantitative data. No studies to our knowledge have specifically examined implementation outcomes of proactive EHR-facilitated cessation treatments. As such, for each implementation factor, we have identified benchmarks that we believe would be indicative of meaningful clinical uptake. These benchmarks have been selected



based on prior documented rates of cessation treatment acceptance and medication receipt within primary care<sup>13</sup>, *Healthy People 2020*'s goals for cessation treatment within ambulatory care settings<sup>14</sup>, and prior uptake rates in response to proactive, automated cessation intervention delivery within primary care<sup>15,16</sup>.

### Acceptability

Acceptability refers to the extent to which an innovation is agreeable, palatable, or satisfactory to a stakeholder. We will measure acceptability at patient and provider levels via the 4-item Acceptability of Intervention Measure (AIM)<sup>17</sup>. Items are scored on a 5-point Likert scale, and the resulting scale score is the mean of responses. The e-visit will be considered acceptable if the average score within each group across respondents is greater than or equal to 4 (scale range = 1-5).

### Adoption

Adoption refers to the intention, decision, or initiation of use for an evidence-based practice and will be characterized at patient and provider levels via EHR analytics data. At the patient level, we will capture the percent of: 1) e-visits opened, 2) e-visits completed and forwarded to the PCP, and 3) patients prescribed a medication who obtain their medication. Using data available in the EHR recruitment report, we will also compare demographics (age, sex, race, ethnicity, rurality, insurance status, medical and psychiatric comorbidities) of patients who enroll in the trial vs. do not to determine whether a demographic-related adoption gap exists. At the provider level, we will assess the percent of: 1) e-visits opened by a patient's PCP, 2) e-visits responded to by a patient's PCP, and 3) e-visits that result in a medication prescription from a patient's PCP. The same metrics will be captured for e-visits responded to by the ED e-visit care team. This approach will allow us to identify adoption gaps which we will further explore during key informant interviews. For example, if we find that 60% of e-visits are responded to by the ED team, this would suggest an adoption gap in primary care. Or, if we find that e-visits are opened by a patient's PCP but do not result in a medication prescription, this could suggest an adoption gap related to prescription of cessation medications. The e-visit will be characterized as having high adoption potential among patients if >80% of e-visits are opened, completed, and forwarded to the PCP and >70% of patients prescribed a medication obtain their medication. The e-visit will be characterized as having high adoption potential among PCPs if >80% of completed e-visits are opened and responded to by a patient's own PCP and if >80% of e-visits in which contraindications are not present result in medication prescription. Similar evaluation metrics will be applied to e-visits routed to the ED e-visit team.

### Fidelity

Fidelity refers to the extent to which an intervention is used as intended. Fidelity evaluation herein will focus on protocol adherence, which will be assessed at patient and provider levels. Within REDCap, we will utilize an implementation tracking checklist to monitor completion of each step of the e-visit process for patients and providers. Research assistants will complete the checklist for each completed e-visit and we will evaluate the percentage of total steps completed. Across e-visits, we will assess which steps are most often skipped, which will be probed during key informant interviews and will guide refinements. For example, if across e-visits we find that PCPs are e-prescribing medications but are not responding to patients electronically with treatment plans, this would suggest needed intervention modifications to augment and facilitate this process.

### Cost Impact of Implementation

Health systems may be more likely to implement the e-visit if it is established as either 1) cost-saving (preferentially) or 2) providing benefit cost-effectively. To examine cost-saving, we will first conduct a cost-benefit analysis by comparing differences in all-cause and tobacco health-related healthcare expenditures prior to and following e-visit implementation relative to TAU. From this difference, we will subtract the cost of implementing e-visits and add anticipated revenues of \$25 per e-visit. This is a conservative approach that does not take into account the value of health; only expenditures are considered. Cost data for all inpatient, outpatient and ED care will be obtained from MUSC billings. As study participants may seek care outside of MUSC, we will also obtain all-payors' claims data from South Carolina's Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA). E-visit implementation cost will be provided by MUSC's BMIC, who will provide ranges of e-visit development and distribution costs. Cessation

medication costs will be based on actual billing data captured as part of the effectiveness trial but will account for national differences in costs using National Average Drug Acquisition Cost data. We will also vary anticipated revenues from \$15.52 to \$50.16 (the current Medicare e-visit reimbursement range) per patient in sensitivity analyses. The case for e-visit adoption and implementation will be the strongest if the e-visit reduces healthcare expenditures while at least providing non-inferior cessation outcomes.

Even if the e-visit is not cost-saving, there is a compelling case for adoption if it improves outcomes cost-effectively. For cost-effectiveness analyses, we will follow gold standard procedures<sup>18</sup> to calculate the incremental cost effectiveness ratio (ICER), defined as the additional cost per additional desired outcome, operationalized as 7-day PPA at 6-months. Because this is an RCT, our ICER is straightforward: (cost of e-visit – cost of TAU) / (e-visit 7-day PPA prevalence – TAU 7-day PPA prevalence). We will assume (but verify) that the two groups have similar characteristics. If group differences are evident, a generalized linear model will be used to adjust outcomes and costs for between-groups differences. If the e-visit is “dominated” (i.e., is more expensive with less desirable result) it will be considered not cost-effective. Otherwise, we will conduct probabilistic sensitivity analyses to test results robustness with differing ranges of costs, revenues and treatment effectiveness<sup>19</sup>. Effectiveness ranges will be based on confidence intervals estimated in Aim 1 outcomes. Cost and revenue data, including potential ranges, will be captured in the manner described for the cost-benefit analysis. All costs and revenues will be converted to net present value at standard discount rates (3% and 5%). Based on the probabilistic sensitivity analyses, we will construct an acceptability curve to demonstrate the probability of the e-visit being cost-effective under different levels of willingness to pay.

### Penetration

Penetration refers to the integration of a practice within a service setting. Provider-level penetration will be assessed during the effectiveness trial. We will determine the total number of unique PCPs employed by MUSC’s Primary Care ICCE who reviewed a study e-visit and divide this number by the total number of PCPs employed by an ICCE clinic randomized to the e-visit condition. High penetration will be indicated by >75% of providers reviewing an e-visit during the study. Patient-level penetration will be assessed during the sustainability evaluation period and will be defined as the total number of unique patients who complete a smoking cessation e-visit during Year 5 divided by the total number of adult patients who are current smokers with MyChart access that have a primary care appointment during Year 5. High patient-level penetration will be defined as >20% of eligible patients completing a smoking cessation e-visit during the sustainability period. A 20% benchmark is similar<sup>20</sup> or higher<sup>15,16</sup> than other proactive cessation trials within the primary care setting.

### Sustainability

Effectiveness trial enrollment will conclude by the end of Year 4, and e-visit sustainability will be evaluated during Year 5. During the final three months of Year 4, Dr. Dahne will work with MUSC’s BMIC team to ensure that the e-visit, previously utilized for research, will be readied for clinical implementation across MUSC clinics. At the beginning of Year 5, the e-visit will become available for clinical utilization. During this period, providers will be able to invite their own patients to complete the e-visit. All training materials developed for provider training in the context of the effectiveness trial will remain available during the sustainability evaluation period but will be modified to instruct providers on how to proactively invite their patients to complete the e-visit. Automated procedures to remind invited patients of the available e-visit will be clinically deployed. During Year 5, we will track adoption, fidelity, and penetration via EHR analytics data. These metrics will be calculated and interpreted during the sustainability period in the same manner as outlined above. E-visit costs during Year 5 will be billed consistent with MUSC’s practices (e.g., either to insurance or at a rate of \$25), and we will assess whether the difference in cost (free during effectiveness trial vs. a cost during sustainability evaluation) impacts patient-level adoption by comparing adoption metrics during Years 1-4 to Year 5 and via key informant interviews.

### Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis

Quantitative data collection will be supplemented with key informant interviews with patients (n=30, or until saturation), PCPs (n=20, or until saturation), and organizational stakeholders (n=5). This mixed methods approach was chosen because, while quantitative data can identify implementation barriers and

facilitators, qualitative data provide guidance regarding why these barriers and facilitators exist and methods for optimization. Diverse patients and PCPs in terms of demographics, time in practice, and cessation outcomes will be recruited for interviews. For patient interviews, we will specifically recruit patients who were invited to enroll in the trial, but opted not to (n=10), patients who enrolled but did not complete either the baseline or 1-month e-visit (n=10), and patients who enrolled and completed both the baseline and 1-month e-visits (n=10). Similarly, we will recruit PCPs with high adoption of the e-visit (i.e., responded to >80% of e-visits completed by their patients; n=10) and low e-visit adoption (i.e., responded to <20%; n=10). Organizational stakeholders will include the MUSC Primary Care ICCE chief, the Chair of University Internal Medicine, the Chair of Carolina Family Care, a clinical pharmacist, and the co-Director of MUSC's BMIC. PCPs and stakeholders will be recruited for these interviews via targeted e-mail and phone messages. Interviews (30-45 minutes in length) will be conducted by Drs. Sterba and Dahne in person or by telephone with a structured interview guide developed using the CFIR<sup>10</sup>. Interviews will focus on each implementation factor described above with the goal to enhance quantitative data within each domain. Interviews will be conducted until theme saturation is achieved<sup>21,22</sup> and will be audio-taped and transcribed for analysis. Methods to ensure trustworthiness of qualitative data collection and analysis (e.g., audit trails, prolonged engagement with data) will be used<sup>23</sup>.

## 11.0 Data Analysis and Data Management

### Aim 1 (Effectiveness RCT) Statistical Design

**Power.** Our primary effectiveness outcome is cessation, defined as 7-day CO-verified point prevalence abstinence (PPA) at 6-months. Preliminary data from our e-visit pilot demonstrated 7-day PPA rates at 3-months of 21.7% and 6.3% for e-visit and TAU groups, respectively. Although we expect similar group differences in abstinence, we expect that 7-day PPA rates will be somewhat lower at 6-months for both groups and conservatively estimate these rates to be 18% (e-visit) and 4% (TAU). In addition, we expect some degree of intra-clinic and intra-provider correlation (i.e., intraclass correlation (ICC)), where patients who “see” the same provider at the same clinic are correlated. We assume this to be relatively low and estimate it at 0.013 for providers, based on our prior site-randomized NRT sampling study<sup>24,25</sup>. We expect that not all MUSC PCPs will have a patient enrolled in the trial and estimate that 67% of PCPs (154 PCPs total \* .67 = 103 PCPs) will have enrolled patients. Based on our pilot, we plan for attrition of 25%<sup>26</sup>. Using an ICC of 0.013 and an *a priori*  $\alpha$  level of 0.05, assuming that 103 PCPs will have participating patients, and inflating by 25% for attrition, a total sample size of 672 (448 e-visit, 224 TAU) would have sufficient power (>80%) to detect differences of 18% vs. 4%, respectively, in 7-day PPA at 6 months. Given clinic-level randomization, 32 patients from each of the 21 clinics will be enrolled. If the correlation among participants who see the same provider (ICC) is actually higher than the 0.013 seen in our previous trial, the current trial design (cluster randomized with 14 clinics in the e-visit condition, 7 clinics in the TAU condition, and 32 patients per clinic) has more than 95% power to detect 7-day PPA at 6-months of 18% (e-visit) and 4% (TAU), with an ICC as high as 0.05, at the  $\alpha=0.05$  significance level.

Other outcomes for this trial include treatment utilization and reduction in cigarettes per day by at least 50%. In our e-visit pilot, treatment utilization rates at 3-months were higher in the e-visit group (60.9%) compared to the TAU group (25%); similarly, reduction in cigarettes per day of >50% was higher in the e-visit group (65.2%) compared to the TAU group (31.3%). With sample sizes of n=448 in the e-visit group and n=224 in the TAU group, we will have more than sufficient power to see similar differences, and in fact smaller differences, even after accounting for potentially lower rates in the e-visit group at 6-months than seen at 3-months. For example, a cluster randomized trial comparing two proportions with  $\alpha$  of 0.05, ICC of 0.013, and 103 PCPs with participating patients would have >80% power to see differences as small as 20% (Treatment Utilization: 45% e-visit, 25% TAU) and 15% (Reduction in Cigarettes Per Day: 45% e-visit, 30% TAU).

**Cessation treatment utilization and cessation outcomes.** Simple descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations will be calculated overall and within group for baseline demographic variables, such as sex, age, race, ethnicity, income, marital status, medical and psychiatric comorbidities (as indicated in the EHR), nicotine dependence, motivation to quit, and other household members who smoke. These baseline variables will be compared initially between treatment groups via Chi-square/Fisher's exact tests (categorical variables) and t-tests or non-parametric equivalents (continuous variables), as appropriate, to identify potential covariates. For continuous variables that are not normally distributed, Wilcoxon rank sum tests or transformations may be applied, as necessary. Generalized linear mixed models (GLMMs) will be used to examine between group differences in baseline variables while accounting for provider and clinic clustering effects. Descriptive statistics (e.g., frequencies, percentages) will be calculated for the primary smoking-related outcomes (treatment utilization, reduction in cigarettes per day >50%, self-reported and biochemically verified 7-day PPA) overall and by treatment group. As rates of these outcomes are expected to be low in the TAU group, we will utilize Fisher's exact tests to compare rates between the e-visit and TAU groups at the 1-, 3-, and 6-month follow-ups. To examine group differences adjusted for relevant covariates based on baseline differences between groups, GLMMs with logit links for binary outcomes will be used. These mixed models will account for any clustering effects within provider by including a random provider effect in the models. Clinic level effects will be examined in a similar manner.

**Secondary subgroup analyses.** GLMMs including main effects of treatment group and specific subgroup variables of interest (e.g., education, race, income, rurality, mental health comorbidities) along with an interaction term between treatment and the subgroup will be used to evaluate for which groups of smokers the e-visit is most/least beneficial. Each subgroup will be evaluated individually. All models will include a random provider effect to account for clustering within provider. As this is an exploratory analysis, the focus will be on effect sizes rather than statistical significance.

**Missing data and dropout.** All enrolled participants will be included in analyses (intent-to-treat approach). We will examine dropout as function of treatment group to examine whether treatment is associated with differential study retention. A sensitivity analysis will be used to assess the potential effect of missing outcome data on parameter estimates. Parameters will be estimated using: 1) all available data, 2) missing outcome data imputed to baseline, and 3) methods of multiple imputations. Imputation of missing data in smoking cessation trials to the baseline condition is often used as it is conservative<sup>27</sup>, does not necessitate the missing and random assumption, and allows for correlation between missing status and smoking status<sup>28</sup>.

## **Aim 2 Qualitative Data Analysis**

Qualitative data will be analyzed using NVivo software<sup>29</sup> with a deductive/inductive template analysis approach<sup>30,31</sup> using an initial CFIR-derived codebook but also allowing additional codes to be generated directly from the data. Two coders will independently review and code data using an iterative, team-based process to refine the codebook with discrepancies resolved by the study team. After completing qualitative and quantitative data analysis independently, data from each source will be synthesized using graphical matrix configurations for data triangulation<sup>32</sup>. Qualitative themes will be supplemented by patterns identified in quantitative results. Findings will characterize needs, concerns, and impressions of our key informants and guide implementation strategies for disseminating the e-visit intervention widely. Drs. Sterba and Dahne will compile qualitative and quantitative results in a report with prioritized, data-driven implementation recommendations.

## **Data Management**

Regarding questionnaire data, data will be obtained for research purposes only. All data will be collected, stored, and managed via REDCap, which is a secure, web-based application designed exclusively to support data capture for research studies. REDCap includes real time validation rules with automated data type and range checks at the time of entry. The underlying database is hosted in a secure data center at MUSC and includes redundancy, failover capability, backups and extensive security checks. The system has several layers of protection including user/group account management, "Data Access Groups" which allow data to be entered by multiple groups in one database with segmented user rights for entered data, audit trails for all changes, queries and reports, and Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) encryption. Name and relevant contact information will be obtained to provide compensation and every effort will be made to maintain subject confidentiality, in accordance with HIPAA. All data will be identified only by code numbers (participant IDs). Participant IDs will be linked to participants' names in a password-protected file that is accessible only to the PI and trained research staff.

Recruitment projects are housed in REDCap. Only IRB-approved study personnel listed on this application will have access to the recruitment project database. The research team will only have access to the REDCap recruitment project while actively enrolling for the study. This recruitment project will be stored separately from the project containing research data.

## **12.0 Provisions to Monitor the Data to Ensure the Safety of Subjects (if applicable)**

This section is based on the recommendations in NCI's "Essential Elements of a Data and Safety Monitoring Plan for Clinical Trials Funded by the National Cancer Institute" as well as NIDA's "Guidelines for Developing a Data and Safety Monitoring Plan".

### ***Summary of the Protocol***

This R01 application consists of a 2-Aim proposal. In Aim 1, we will conduct a site-randomized controlled trial (N=672) to examine the effectiveness of the smoking cessation e-visit vs. TAU for smoking cessation across 21 primary care practices affiliated with the MUSC Primary Care ICCE. The first 5 participants will be assigned to the e-visit group for usability testing. In Aim 2, we will evaluate e-visit implementation outcomes across diverse primary care settings at patient, provider, and organizational levels.

### ***Trial Management***

The study will be managed from the Addiction Sciences Division within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). Recruitment, data collection, data management, and treatment provision will be coordinated and centrally managed at our research lab at MUSC and will be implemented within local primary care clinics that are part of MUSC's Primary Care ICCE. Participant enrollment for Aim 1 will occur during months 4-48 (months within total study duration).

### ***Data Management and Analysis***

Participants will enter data in REDCap, a secure, web-based application designed exclusively to support data capture for research studies. REDCap provides: 1) an intuitive interface for data entry (with data validation); 2) audit trails for tracking data manipulation and export procedures; 3) automated export procedures for seamless data downloads to common statistical packages (SPSS, SAS, Stata, R); 4) procedures for importing data from external sources; and 5) advanced features, such as branching logic and calculated fields. These procedures are effective in minimizing data entry errors (e.g., missing or errant data). All data from the iCO™ Smokerlyzer (personal breath CO monitor) will also be entered and stored in REDCap. Data analytic plans are outlined above.

### ***Quality Assurance***

Accuracy and completeness of the data collected will be ensured by weekly review. The REDCap system does not accept outliers, illogical response patterns, etc. The PI and research assistants will have weekly meetings to discuss any qualitative comments received during data collection and any problems in data collection. The PI will examine the database for potential irregularities monthly. Initial data analyses will examine distributions of variable scores and comparability of baseline characteristics across conditions in case analyses need to be adjusted for these. Confidentiality procedures are outlined above.

### ***Regulatory Issues***

This study will be registered on clinicaltrials.gov. The study does not require an IND from the FDA. All serious AEs will be reported to the MUSC Committee on Human Research within 48-hours. Follow-up of all unexpected and serious AEs will also be reported. All AEs will be reviewed weekly by the PI and yearly by the IRB. Any significant actions taken by the local IRB and protocol changes will be relayed to the funding agency. We estimate the significant AE rate to be 5% or less. If monthly monitoring indicates the rate is above this, we will convene a meeting of the DSMB. Potential conflicts of interest (COI) will be reported using the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco's (SRNT's) rules for disclosure as well as the rules of MUSC's COI committee.

### ***Trial Safety***

The potential risks and benefits and methods to minimize these risks are outlined in the "Protection of Human Subjects" section. AEs will be tracked and rated by the participant as mild, moderate or severe and as related or unrelated to cessation medications received as part of the e-visit. We will determine if any AEs result in dropouts or are serious according to FDA guidelines. The PI (Dr. Dahne) will serve as the Program Manager for AEs. All unexpected AEs will be monitored while they are active to determine if treatment is needed. We anticipate that AEs will be rare as only FDA-approved medications for cessation will be used and all medications will be used on label. Nonetheless, any AEs will be coded on a weekly basis using the FDA's COSTART rules<sup>33</sup> and entered into a database. For each weekly study meeting, the research assistant will prepare a summary of all AEs, including their severity, whether they caused a dropout, required treatment and presumed relation to drug intake. The PI will review this at the weekly study meeting (or before if more urgent). At the weekly meeting (or before if urgent), the research assistant will report any premonitory symptoms to suggest emergence of a serious psychiatric condition (e.g., major depression, suicidality). Drs. Diaz and Player, board-certified Family Medicine physicians, will be available on an ad-hoc basis for on-site medical supervision for any issues that cannot be resolved by Dr. Dahne.

Study procedures will follow as much as possible the FDA's Good Clinical Practice Guidelines and our research team has found Spilker's comprehensive text on conducting clinical trials to be useful<sup>34</sup>. We will encourage participants to notify their physicians that a) they are in a randomized controlled research study examining a treatment for smoking cessation, and b) the physician should contact the PI directly if the physician has any questions.

The research assistants will be instructed not to reveal whether a person is a participant in the study and will report to the PI any outside requests for information about a participant or any breaches in confidentiality. All requests by participant's physicians and other medical providers will be referred directly to the PI.

### ***Trial Efficacy***

The Data and Safety Monitoring Board (see below) may request a blinded interim efficacy report (blinded to the PI and research team) for review while the trial is ongoing. Final (fully unblinded) efficacy analysis will occur after all participants have completed all follow-ups.

### ***Data and Safety Monitoring Plan Administration***

The PI will be responsible for monitoring the trial, with additional oversight provided by study co-Investigators. The PI will examine monthly the outcomes database for missing data, unexpected distributions or responses, and outliers. The PI will check weekly the AE database prepared by the research assistant immediately prior to the lab meeting to a) see if any particular COSTART categories are being endorsed more frequently than normal and b) determine if any side-effect symptom checklist scores are higher than expected. A DSM report will be filed with the IRB and funding agency on a yearly basis, unless greater than expected problems occur. The report will include participant characteristics, retention and disposition of study participants, quality assurance issues and reports of AEs, significant/unexpected AEs and serious AEs. We will report efficacy at the end of the trial.

### ***Data and Safety Monitoring Board Plan***

We will create a Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB), comprised of three clinicians with expertise in smoking cessation treatment and smoking cessation clinical trials, and a statistician. The DSMB will meet annually (more frequently as needed for emergent situations) to review any AEs related to the study, as well as review any data management related errors. The board may be called at any point if needed for unexpected, serious AEs, etc. Modification will be made in the procedures and/or the protocol if necessary based on the findings of the board.

## **13.0 Risks to Subjects**

This is considered a minimal risk study. Minimal risk means the probability and magnitude of harm or discomfort anticipated in the research are not greater than those ordinarily encountered in daily life or during performance of routine physical or psychological examinations or tests. The potential risks in this study include those related to: a) smoking cessation medications, b) confidentiality, c) frustration, d) risks during pregnancy, and e) randomization.

**a) Smoking cessation medications:** Participants assigned to the smoking cessation e-visit (based on clinic randomization) may receive an FDA-approved smoking cessation medication recommendation and prescription as an outcome of the e-visit. Medication options include: nicotine replacement therapy (NRT; prescribed either as a single or combination therapy, e.g., patch+lozenge/gum), varenicline, and/or bupropion. Participants will be educated about their smoking cessation medication as part of the e-visit, which will include education about potential medication side effects. The e-visit will assess contraindications for each FDA-approved cessation medication and medication will only be prescribed if the participant does not have contraindications for that medication. Contraindications for NRT include: 1) recent ( $\leq 2$  weeks) myocardial infarction, 2) serious underlying arrhythmias, 3) serious/worsening angina pectoris, 4) pregnancy, and 5) breastfeeding. Contraindications for varenicline include: 1) severe renal impairment, 2) pregnancy, and 3) breastfeeding. Contraindications for bupropion include: 1) concomitant therapy with medications/conditions known to lower the seizure threshold, 2) hepatic impairment, 3) seizure disorder, 4) current or prior diagnosis of bulimia or anorexia nervosa, 5) simultaneous abrupt discontinuation of alcohol or sedatives/benzodiazepines, 6) use of MAO inhibitors within the last 14 days or concurrent use of reversible MAO inhibitors, 7) pregnancy, and 8) breastfeeding. Participants will be provided with our study phone number and instructed to call our study personnel should they experience AEs or if they have questions/concerns about medication use. Given the relatively benign risk profiles of these medications, we expect AEs, which will be assessed across follow-up timepoints via REDCap, to be rare and mild. Participants will be encouraged to contact Dr. Dahne as soon as possible for serious AEs and for those conditions that labeling suggests seeing a provider. We will withdraw participants who have a serious AE. For other AEs, if the participant wishes it, the participant will be withdrawn from the study.

**b) Confidentiality:** Participants will be made aware of limits to confidentiality at the beginning of screening and during informed consent which include report of suicidal or homicidal intent or report of abuse or neglect. If the participant reports suicidal or homicidal intent or abuse/neglect during the phone screening or during the trial, Dr. Dahne will take appropriate action as outlined by the MUSC IRB, NIH, and the State of South Carolina, which may include contacting the authorities and/or pursuing involuntary commitment at a mental health facility. If participants present no imminent danger but also need more extensive treatment of mental health concerns, they will be given appropriate referrals and instructed to contact their primary care physician.

**c) Frustration:** Participants may become frustrated while completing questionnaires or while using the smoking cessation e-visit. Participants will be informed that they may refuse to answer any question(s) that they do not wish to answer and that they may discontinue the e-visit at any time (which will be tracked as a study outcome).

**d) Risks During Pregnancy:** We do not know if medications that may be prescribed as part of this study will affect mother's milk or an unborn fetus. If a participant is pregnant or becomes pregnant, there may be risks to the embryo or fetus that are unknown at this time. Participants will be made aware during consent that any woman of childbearing potential, as reported on the screening survey, must complete a pregnancy test before completing the e-visit. The pregnancy test will be mailed to her at no cost and the participant will receive a REDCap form within 3 days to verify (with signature) that they completed the test and their pregnancy test results. Once study staff receives this completed REDCap form from the participant, they will be scheduled for consent. Females of childbearing potential who report a positive pregnancy test will not receive varenicline as a result of the e-visit. These women instead will either receive NRT, bupropion and/or counseling based on other contraindications and medication preferences indicated throughout the e-visit.

**e) Randomization:** Participants are made aware that one treatment method may prove to be more or less effective than the other treatment method provided via the study. Participants are free to discontinue study participation at any time, either prior to or following randomization in order to avoid this risk.

Since patients will all currently be receiving medical care at MUSC, there are no additional risks associated with participation in this study.

### ***Adequacy of Protection Against Risks***

#### **Recruitment and Informed Consent**

Study participants will be recruited from local MUSC Primary Care ICCE clinics. Smoking status is assessed for every patient, consistent with MUSC's best practice guidelines. Patients will be identified via cold contact for research recruitment methods and will be sent a message inviting them to participate in a research study. Interested patients will complete determination of eligibility via MUSC's REDCap system, a secure, HIPAA-compliant data management system. Consent will take place remotely via REDCap e-consent paired with a phone call with a member of the research team<sup>35</sup>. This approach allows: 1) live audio contact with an IRB-approved consentor and 2) electronic signed consent. All participants will electronically sign informed consent forms that have been IRB-approved once the study is explained to them in full and they have stated that they understand what is being asked of them. Participants will be given the opportunity to ask questions about their participation throughout the course of the study. A copy of the informed consent will be kept centrally at our study office within locked filing cabinets and a copy will also be given to each study participant. Participants will be given a study phone number and e-mail address to contact for questions.



### Protections Against Risk

All screening information will be kept in a password protected REDCap database. Only key study personnel will have access to the database. If an individual is not eligible to participate, his/her screener will include his/her first name and last initial and the reason for disqualification. Eligible participants' full name, telephone number and e-mail address will be recorded in the database. This is the only place where participants' names and subject identification numbers appear together. Eligible participants will be assigned a subject number, will complete informed consent (see procedures above), will be assigned to an intervention based on clinic randomization, will complete baseline assessments, and subsequently will receive their randomized intervention.

Upon completing eligibility screening, if study eligible, individuals will be provided with a verbal overview of the study, asked to review a consent form, and asked to provide informed consent. Participants will be informed of limitations of confidentiality (i.e., abuse or neglect, intention to harm self or someone else) both verbally and in writing during the informed consent process. The consent form will include the participant's name, but not his/her subject number. Consent forms will be provided in English. As utilization of the smoking cessation e-visit requires that participants are able to read, participants unable to read the consent form on their own will not be included.

Regarding questionnaire data, data will be obtained for research purposes only. All data will be collected, stored, and managed via REDCap, which is a secure, web-based application designed exclusively to support data capture for research studies. REDCap includes real time validation rules with automated data type and range checks at the time of entry. The underlying database is hosted in a secure data center at MUSC and includes redundancy, failover capability, backups and extensive security checks. The system has several layers of protection including user/group account management, "Data Access Groups" which allow data to be entered by multiple groups in one database with segmented user rights for entered data, audit trails for all changes, queries and reports, and Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) encryption. Name and relevant contact information will be obtained to provide compensation and every effort will be made to maintain subject confidentiality, in accordance with HIPAA. All data will be identified only by code numbers (participant IDs). Participant IDs will be linked to participants' names in a password-protected file that is accessible only to the PI and trained research staff.

Protection against risks associated with FDA-approved smoking cessation medications that may be provided as a result of the e-visit includes: 1) review of all medication recommendations by physicians, 2) use of such medications strictly on label, and 3) a Data and Safety Monitoring Plan that includes monitoring of AEs. Participants will not be provided with a medication if they have FDA contraindications for that medication. **There will be direct electronic contact between the participant and the PCP via MyChart prior to prescription. If contraindications are present (e.g., a contraindicated medication is noted in the EMR, but not reported in the e-visit) or if the patient reports untreated health concerns requiring attention (e.g., cough with blood), electronic contact will be supplemented with phone and/or in person contact.** Thus, prescription-related safety concerns are no greater here than in other clinical scenarios. While this direct contact could be viewed as an impediment to scalability, we view it as necessary due to potential safety concerns related to prescription medications. Through informational material provided with the medications and through the e-visit, participants will be educated about potential AEs and nicotine intoxication symptoms. As FDA-approved medications with benign risk profiles, we anticipate very few AEs. AEs will be assessed in research follow-ups as well as in the 1-month follow-up e-visit. During consent and within the e-visit, participants will be provided contact information to use should they experience an AE and need immediate clinical support. AEs will be discussed with Drs. Diaz and Player. We will also form a Data Safety and Monitoring Board (DSMB). If the percent of serious or severe AEs appears to be greater than 5% the DSMB will be notified to make a decision on early termination of the study.

## **14.0 Potential Benefits to Subjects or Others**

All smokers in this trial will receive at minimum standard smoking cessation care via MUSC's Primary Care ICCE and evidence-based educational information about quitting smoking. We will not augment standard smoking cessation care as provided by the Primary Care ICCE. The majority of participants will also receive an invitation to complete a smoking cessation e-visit. The major benefits to society will be whether this smoking cessation e-visit improves cessation treatment access and cessation outcomes relative to TAU and whether the approach has high implementation potential. Patients randomized to the e-visit group may benefit from being smoke-free. Potential issues of medication risks, confidentiality, and frustration are a high priority and will be closely monitored throughout the study. Consequently, the risk to benefit ratio in the proposed study appears to be acceptable.

## **15.0 Sharing of Results with Subjects**

Study enrollment and study outcomes will not be shared with medical staff, including the participant's physician.

## **16.0 Drugs or Devices**

This study involves the use of FDA-approved smoking cessation medications. Medications will not be stored or handled by any members of the research team. Medications recommended in the e-visit will be reviewed by the patient's primary care physician before prescription. If no contraindications exist, the primary care physician will e-prescribe the medication to the patient's preferred pharmacy.

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