

Potential Letter to the Editor for Partners:

A recent news article and advertisement (insert details on date and article) promoted electronic cigarettes. While these products claim to have no tobacco, they should not be considered a safe alternative to smoking combustible cigarettes. What is most concerning is that the long term health effects of the electronic cigarettes are largely unknown.

While electronic cigarettes are considered by some as a potentially less dangerous alternative to cigarettes or a potential smoking cessation aid, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved usage, distribution, or advertising of electronic cigarettes in the United States because there is no publicly available independent research on the safety or effectiveness of electronic cigarettes.

There are numerous methods for treating tobacco use addiction that have been thoroughly researched and are endorsed by health care professionals. Specifically the U.S. Public Health Service issued the 2008 Guideline on Treating Tobacco Use Addiction. Use of electronic cigarettes is not an evidence-based treatment approach, nor is there current peer-reviewed research to suggest that it is a device that should be added as a safe and effective method for treating nicotine addiction.

Smokers wanting to quit smoking should contact a local health care provider for assistance, call 1-800-QUIT-NOW to speak with a trained quit coach, or contact (insert local coalition info) for advice.