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[The Hamiltons](#)
[Travel news](#)

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[Latest headlines](#)

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[Transport](#)
[Education](#)
[Law and Order](#)
[Terrorism](#)
[Defence](#)
[Middle East](#)
[Gaffes](#)
[Sleaze](#)

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[Lifestyle](#)
[Quirkies](#)
[Technology](#)
[Science and discovery](#)
[Surveys](#)
[Royals](#)
[Lottery](#)
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[Sport](#)
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[Corrections](#)

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Ananova :

Nicotine patches on sale at cancer charity shops

Nicotine patches have gone on sale at a chain of cancer charity shops

following a change in the law which means they no longer have to be bought from chemists.

The Cancer Research Campaign will be selling NiQuitin CQ patches at 18 of its shops across the country on a trial basis for eight weeks.

In a recent survey, more than half the smokers questioned said they would feel more motivated to quit if nicotine replacement therapy was more widely available.

More than a third thought the therapy should be available from cancer charity shops.

Jean King, director of education at The Cancer Research Campaign, said: "It's never too late to give up smoking. Research shows that even in middle age smokers who stop before they have developed some serious disease avoid most of their subsequent risk of death from tobacco.

"Smokers who stop before middle age avoid almost all of their risk. That's why The Cancer Research Campaign is running this pilot, to widen the availability of NRT patches and encourage more people to try giving up."

Linda Cowie, smoking control manager at GlaxoSmithKline, which makes the patches, said: "This wider availability is good news for smokers, as the more people that use the patches to support their quit attempt, the more people will quit successfully."

The shops taking part in the pilot scheme are in Aberdeen, Barnet, Belfast, Birmingham, Cardiff, Eastbourne, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Londonderry, Manchester, Muswell Hill in London, Newcastle upon Tyne, Northampton, Plymouth, Preston, and Southampton.

Story filed: 10:20 Thursday 23rd August 2001

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