

Tobacco Cessation and the Affordable Care Act

A Tobacco Control Advocate's Checklist

What do I need to know?

- What treatments does your state Medicaid program cover for helping smokers quit? Are there extra benefits for pregnant women? (check [this](#) website)
- What is the utilization rate for your state's Medicaid tobacco cessation benefit? Do Medicaid enrollees know the benefit exists? Does Medicaid promote it?
- Has your Governor or other state policymakers indicated whether your state will carry out the ACA Medicaid expansion? (Check [this](#) website) Are plans underway?¹
- Has your state chosen an Alternative Benefit Plan (coverage available to Medicaid expansion population)? What does that plan cover for tobacco cessation?
- Is your state creating a health insurance marketplace or partnering with HHS to do so?
- What is your state's Essential Health Benefits benchmark plan for the health insurance marketplace? What does the plan cover for tobacco cessation treatment? How many tobacco cessation medications are on the benchmark's formulary?
- Does your state prohibit tobacco surcharges in insurance ratings? (check [this](#) website)
- Which coalitions are working on these issues?
- What projects in your community are funded by the Prevention and Public Health Fund?
 - Quitline?
 - Medicaid Incentives for Prevention of Chronic Disease grants?
 - Partnerships to Improve Community Health grants?

What do I need to do?

- Make contacts in your state Medicaid department
- Develop strategies to institute comprehensive tobacco cessation coverage for all Medicaid enrollees in your state (including 2014 new enrollees)
 - Advocate for legislation
 - Request additions to formulary/preferred drug list
 - Add requirements in managed care contracts
 - Advocate for an Alternative Benefit Plan that covers a comprehensive tobacco cessation benefit
- Advocate to expand Medicaid to 133% FPL(if necessary)
 - Send a letter to the Governor/state legislators
 - Work in coalition, bringing the public health perspective
- Explore the possibility of your state prohibiting or limiting tobacco surcharges in the individual and small group insurance marketplace
- Make contacts in your state Insurance Commissioner's office, or whichever agency will be running the state marketplace. Educate them about what a comprehensive cessation benefit is and encourage this agency to require all plans in the marketplace to cover such a benefit.
- Reach out to insurance plans who are participating, or likely to participate, in the insurance marketplace. Educate them about a comprehensive tobacco cessation benefit, and encourage them to provide the benefit to all enrollees. [Here](#) is a link to the Federal Guidance defining what a comprehensive cessation benefit is (Q5).

¹ States/ Medicaid programs can expand Medicaid to 133% of the FPL at any point in time.

- Request a district meeting with your Member of Congress to discuss the programs in your area funded by the Prevention and Public Health Fund, and the importance of protecting the fund.