

---

# FEHB Program Carrier Letter

## All Carriers

U.S. Office of Personnel Management  
Office of Insurance Programs

---

**Letter No. 2000-34**

**Date:** July 21, 2000

Fee-for-service [ 29 ]    Experience-rated HMO [ 30 ]    Community-rated [ 32 ]

---

**SUBJECT:** New Public Health Service Smoking Cessation Guideline

The Surgeon General released a new guideline on smoking cessation on June 27, 2000. We encourage you to review the new guideline and incorporate appropriate findings in your smoking cessation programs. We also encourage you to share this information with your providers and members through appropriate communications media, including creating a link from your web site to the Surgeon General's web site on tobacco cessation ([www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco)).

The updated guideline, *Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence*, a Public Health Service-sponsored Clinical Practice Guideline, is the product of the Tobacco Use and Dependence Guideline Panel. It reflects new, effective clinical treatments for tobacco dependence identified since 1994. These treatments promise to enhance the rates of successful tobacco cessation. The guideline is relevant to all tobacco users, not solely cigarette smokers.

Some key recommendations include:

- Tobacco dependence is a chronic condition that often requires repeated intervention,
- Every patient who uses tobacco should be offered treatment, and
- There are now five effective first-line pharmacotherapies.

You can find more information and details about the guideline on the Surgeon General's tobacco cessation web site. The site includes the report containing the guideline, a consumer guide, a fact sheet, press releases and the President's statement in support of the findings. If you have questions about this letter, call Ron Rabbu at 202/606-0745.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Frank D. Titus

Assistant Director

for Insurance Programs