

SMOKING CESSATION.... IT CAN'T HURT TO ASK

Have you have asked yourself, “What can I do to make a difference in the lives of my patients who smoke?” We have an answer! Through motivational interventions, you can help decrease tobacco use in your patient population.

The Public Health Service-sponsored Clinical Practice Guideline, **Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence**, to assist in identifying tobacco users and supporting and delivering effective smoking cessation intervention. This pocket reference manual will help you guide your patient to a smoke free lifestyle. A small excerpt from the manual of “5 A’s and the ‘5 R’s” is printed below.

Motivational Interventions

Tobacco user willing to quit – “5A’s” motivational intervention

- **Ask** – Systematically identify all tobacco users at every visit
- **Advise** – Strongly urge all tobacco user to quit
- **Assess** – Determine patient’ willingness to make a quit attempt
- **Assist** – Aid the patient in quitting (e.g., counseling, literature, pharmacotherapy)
- **Arrange** – Schedule follow-up appointment with patient (e.g., in person or by telephone)

Tobacco users unwilling to quit – “5 R’s” motivational intervention

- **Relevance** – Encourage the patient to indicate why quitting is personal relevant
- **Risk** – Identify potential negative consequence of tobacco use
- **Rewards** – Ask the patient to identify potential benefits of smoking cessation
- **Roadblocks** – Ask the patient to identify barriers to quitting
- **Repetition** – Motivational intervention should occur at every patient visit

Additionally, the following resources are available to you and your patient to reinforce your efforts to encourage smoking cessation.

Patient and Provider Resources

- **Tobacco – Quit Line**
Sponsored by the American Lung Association
(866) – QUIT YES, (866) 784-8937

- **American Lung Association**
(800) – LUNG USA, (800) 548-8252
- **American Heart Association**
(800) – AHA–USA1, (800) 242-8721
- **County Health Department**
To locate a local office, contact your local provider representative

Provider Resources

- Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHR) Publication
Clearinghouse manual on **Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence**.

For more information on Stop Smoking <http://www.ahrq.gov/path/tobacco.htm>

As clinicians, you are in a frontline position to help your patient by asking two key questions: “Do you smoke?” and “Do you want to quit?” As a leader in healthcare, we are committed to providing ongoing support for plan members who are trying to stop smoking and providers who deliver this care. Let’s work together as a team to deliver quality healthcare that will enrich our members’ health and quality of life!