

A Call for **ACTION**

(Access to Cessation Treatment for Tobacco In Our Nation): An Action Plan to Address the Lack of Access to Tobacco-Use Treatment

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS), and the National Business Group on Health have recommended that all tobacco users have access to comprehensive, evidence-based benefits that give them the best chance to successfully quit. As defined by the CDC, a comprehensive tobacco cessation benefit includes:

- Coverage of at least four counseling sessions (individual, group, or telephone) of at least 30 minutes each.
- Coverage of all FDA-approved prescription and over-the-counter medications.
- Coverage of both counseling and medications for at least two quit attempts per year.
- Elimination or minimization of co-pays or deductibles for counseling and medications.

Actions that Any and All Interested Parties Can Take

- Promote the inclusion of highly cost-effective preventive services (e.g., tobacco-use treatment) in health reform proposals.
- Call upon the Healthy People 2020 Advisory Committee to include insurance coverage, quitline access, and use of evidence-based treatments in the most recent cessation attempt as HP2020 measures.
- Actively promote greater access to comprehensive tobacco use treatment services.
- Encourage tobacco-users to advocate for barrier-free access to effective treatment services.

OUR GOAL: Expand access to comprehensive tobacco cessation treatment to 50% of smokers by 2015 and 100% by 2020