

Effective January 1, 2011 the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved a \$50 monthly surcharge be added to the health insurance premiums of tobacco users covered by the University System of Georgia's Health Care Plan. The elimination of tobacco use will reduce the cost to the insurance plans and, most importantly, keep USG employees healthy.

This surcharge applies to active employees and USG retirees. It does not apply to eligible dependents.

If you smoke or use tobacco you will pay the additional surcharge of \$50 per month. Tobacco use is classified as smoking tobacco in such forms as a cigarette, pipe or cigar, or using smokeless tobacco, such as snuff or chewing tobacco (nicotine chewing gum is excluded).

All employees are required to certify whether they are current tobacco users

There are two ways to complete this certification:

1. Log in to the ADP benefits web site by November 19, 2010 to complete the certification online.
- or
2. Complete and return the Certification regarding Tobacco Use Form to your Human Resources Department by November 19, 2010. Be sure to keep a copy of the completed certification for your records.

If an employee certifies they are a non-tobacco user and it is determined they have used tobacco products or started using tobacco products after the date of certification as a non-tobacco user, they will be subject to following including, but not limited to:

- Payment of the \$50 surcharge, plus a 10% penalty, for each month since the certification

Once an employee is tobacco-free they can apply for the non-tobacco user premium by completing the Certification Regarding Tobacco Use Form or completing the on line certification.

**TOBACCO USE AFFIDAVIT FORM**

Plan Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emplid: \_\_\_\_\_

*Tobacco Usage Verification. A tobacco user is defined as any employee who is currently using tobacco products. "Tobacco products" include but are not limited to cigarettes, cigars and chewing tobacco. This election can only be changed if you certify that you have stopped using tobacco products.*

**CHECK ONE**

<input type="radio"/>	<b>I AM CURRENTLY A TOBACCO USER</b>
<input type="radio"/>	<b>I AM NOT A TOBACCO USER</b>

I do hereby attest that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further acknowledge and understand that I may be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not less than one and no more than five years, or both, and I may lose health coverage for one year, if I knowingly and willfully make a false or fraudulent statement or representation to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia regarding the information reported on this form or other information pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 16-10-20.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Once you have read and signed this affidavit you must submit it to your payroll location benefit coordinator to have the required deduction information completed.**

## **TOBACCO USERS CESSATION ASSISTANCE**

Tobacco users who elect to quit smoking/using tobacco products can have the tobacco surcharge removed.

The University System of Georgia is providing coverage for OTC and Prescription smoking cessation products. It will include nicotine gum, lozenges and patches that are available as over the counter items as well as all prescription products like Chantix and Zyban. This will be covered under the BC/BS plans. There will be a zero \$ co-pay for these smoking cessation products. All over the counter smoking cessation products **must have** a prescription written from a physician in order to have a zero \$ co-pay.

If an employee is interested in participating in a cessation program it is their responsibility to contact the appropriate program and sign up for cessation classes. The following is a few of the programs that are currently offered:

### **American Cancer Society Tobacco Cessation Program**

Numerous tobacco cessation classes will be offered through the American Cancer Society in various locations throughout the state. Covered employees who are interested in attending these classes should contact the American Cancer Society at **888-227-6333**.

### **American Lung Association**

Numerous tobacco cessation classes will be offered through the American Lung Association in various locations throughout the state. Covered employees who are interested in attending these classes should contact the American Lung Association at **888-436-3626**.

**The Georgia Tobacco Quit Line (877-270-7867)** is available as a resource to smoking employees.

Covered employees taking advantage of these classes may incur a nominal fee which is not covered by the USG.