

State Health Plan - Comprehensive Wellness Initiative (CWI) Verification Process

A third party vendor will be hired by the State Health Plan to conduct the tobacco verification process, the exemption certification process and appeals. The CWI tobacco program starts July 1, 2010.

Tobacco Use Verification

Senate Bill 287 (session Law 2009-16) requires the State Health Plan to verify if members who attest to not using tobacco are eligible for the 80/20 plan. A sample of members will be selected using a stratified random methodology for tobacco use testing.

1. An initial saliva test will be used to determine tobacco use.
2. A secondary test will be offered immediately if test results are positive.
3. Testing will not be conducted at the worksite to reduce member privacy concerns.
4. Non-Medicare primary subscribers and their spouses may be selected for tobacco testing.
5. Testing sites will be within 15 miles and 30 minutes drive time from the member's home.

Tobacco Program Certification Process

Members may qualify for the 80/20 plan if they are actively trying to quit using tobacco. A random sample of members who attest to participating in a cessation program may be required to submit a physician signed form certifying that the member is enrolled in a cessation program.

Consequences of Non-Compliance for 2010/2011

Members who refuse testing, test positive for tobacco use or fail to submit a physician certification form within the required timeframe and their covered dependents will be moved from the 80/20 plan to the 70/30 plan for the remainder of the 2010/2011 benefit year. Members will forfeit any coinsurance and deductibles already paid under the 80/20 Plan during the 2010/2011 benefit year. Members and their covered dependents will be eligible to enroll **only** in the 70/30 plan for the 2011/2012 benefit year.

Appeals

Members may appeal testing results and administrative errors. Members who refuse testing may not appeal.

*Effective July 1, 2011, the weight management component of the CWI will start. The process around Body Mass Index (BMI) verification has not been determined, however, the certification process, including consequences and appeals, does apply. A random sample of members who attest to being in a weight management program or to having a medical condition that prevents the attainment of the specific weight range may be required to submit a physician certification form.

Other State Program Examples:

Indiana Tobacco

- Members sign a waiver at enrollment
- \$20/month/premium discount for non-users
- Test employees with saliva test
- Number of employees reporting tobacco use increased as penalties became more severe
- 2010 Penalty: Termination of Job

Alabama Weight

- Members sign a waiver at enrollment
- \$25/month surcharge
- Members in wellness program, at low risk, under physician care or engaging in self-management may receive \$25/m discount
- Must participate in annual health screening
- Penalty is surcharge