

# Medicaid Can Help You Quit Smoking

## What is Medicaid?

Medicaid is a government program for people who can't afford to pay for health care. If you are between the ages of 19 and 64, and a New York State resident, with low income and limited resources, you may be eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid covers doctor services, eye care, dental care, and medications to help you stop smoking!



## How Medicaid Can Help You Stop Smoking

- With a doctor's prescription, you can get products to help you quit smoking which Medicaid can pay for such as nicotine patches, inhalers, nasal sprays, gum, and Zyban (Bupropion).
- Your doctor must write a prescription for you to receive either a prescription or over-the-counter product.
- Some products can be used together. For example, Zyban, taken by mouth, and nicotine patches, which are put on the skin, can be used at the same time. Ask your doctor and pharmacist what is right for you.

## Some Products Covered by Medicaid:

- Nicotine patches are placed on the skin and supply a measured dose of nicotine.
- Nicotine gum provides nicotine in a chewing gum product; available over the counter.
- Nicotine nasal spray, available by prescription, is a small plastic tube with a plug that contains nicotine and menthol (menthol reduces throat irritation).
- Bupropion (Zyban), available by prescription, is a medication that you take by mouth. It does not provide nicotine. It helps you decrease your craving and withdrawal symptoms and helps reduce your desire to smoke.
- Varenicline (Chantix), available by prescription, is a medication that you take by mouth. Its does not provide nicotine but the medicine works on nicotine receptors in the brain and provides satisfaction that nicotine gives.

## How to Apply for Medicaid

In New York City, contact the Human Resources Administration (HRA) at (718) 557-1399. Residents of the five boroughs of New York City may also call toll free at 1-877-472-8411.

For help in Medicaid enrollment and other government-sponsored insurance programs, please visit the **Charles B. Wang Community Health Center** at 136-26 37<sup>th</sup> Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Flushing, NY, 11354. The Chinese and Korean bilingual staff can help assist you in processing your insurance application. The application must be done in person. For more information on applying, please call for an appointment at (718-886-1212) from Monday to Friday between 9am-5pm.

## Free Smoking Cessation Programs and Resources in New York

\* Chinese speaking staff available

*American Cancer Society-Asian Initiatives Smoking Cessation Program (Free Nicotine Patches and Counseling) (718) 886-8890	*Gouverneur Hospital Smoking cessation program (Individual counseling) (212) 238-7471
*Charles B. Wang Community Health Center Health Education Department (212) 966-0461	St. Vincent's Hospital Tobacco Cessation Program-Support Group (212) 604-2199
Bellevue Hospital Center Stop Smoking Program (212) 562-4748	New York State Smokers' Quitline 1-866-NY-QUITS (1-866-697-8487)