

Tobacco User Surcharge

1. I do not use tobacco. What do I need to do to avoid being charged the tobacco users surcharge?

All PEEHIP members enrolled in the PEEHIP Hospital Medical or HMO Plan are charged a \$23.00 per month PEEHIP premium increase. However, non-tobacco users can have the surcharge removed from their monthly premium by certifying to PEEHIP that they (and their spouse, if the spouse is covered as a dependent) have not used tobacco products within the last 12 months. You must certify this to PEEHIP by completing the tobacco usage questions on the [HEALTH INSURANCE AND OPTIONAL STATUS CHANGE](#) form.

Note: The tobacco surcharge will increase to \$25 effective October 1, 2009.

2. I have stopped smoking. Can I now get the non-tobacco user discount?

A member and/or his or her spouse must not have used tobacco products in the last **12 months** to qualify for the non-tobacco user discount.

3. Will the tobacco surcharge apply to my dependent children if they are tobacco users?

No. The tobacco user surcharge does not apply to dependent children. It applies to the member and his or her spouse.

4. Does the tobacco user surcharge also apply to my Optional Coverage Plans?

No. The tobacco user surcharge does not apply to the Optional Coverage Dental, Vision, Cancer, and Indemnity Plans. It only applies to the Hospital Medical Plan or the HMO Plan.

5. Do I have to certify to PEEHIP each year that I do not use tobacco products?

If you have previously certified your tobacco status and your spouse's tobacco status if you have family coverage, you do not need to recertify to the PEEHIP office every year. You are only required to certify to PEEHIP if you or your spouse's tobacco status changes during the year, or when you change/update your PEEHIP Hospital Medical or HMO coverage.

6. I am a new employee. What form do I use to certify that I am not a tobacco user?

A new employee can certify his or her tobacco usage status and spouse's tobacco usage status if applicable at the time of enrolling in hospital medical or HMO plan coverage. Enrollment in coverage and certification of tobacco usage status can be done **online** through [Member Online Services](#) or by completing the [HEALTH INSURANCE AND OPTIONAL ENROLLMENT APPLICATION](#) and mailing it to PEEHIP.