



Association for the Treatment of
Tobacco Use and Dependence

3 Terrace Way
Greensboro, NC 27403
Phone: 336.482.2825
Fax: 336.482.5852
Email: attud@cce-global.org

Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH
mchassin@jointcommission.org
The Joint Commission, Washington DC Office
601 13th Street, NW, Suite 560 South
Washington, DC 20005

May 24, 2011

Re: Proposed Tobacco Treatment Measures for Hospitalized Smokers

Dear Dr. Chassin:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Association for the Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence (ATTUD) to congratulate the Joint Commission for its work in developing a revised Tobacco Treatment Measure set, and to encourage the Joint Commission to issue the full measure set recommended by the Technical Advisory Panel.

ATTUD is an international organization of over 400 providers dedicated to the promotion of and increased access to evidence-based tobacco treatment. We believe that the currently recommended Tobacco Treatment Measure set, if implemented by hospitals, will result in a significant increase in the quality and quantity of tobacco treatment provided. We are confident that this will result in more patients succeeding in quitting smoking and therefore better health outcomes for patients.

It is our understanding that the Technical Advisory Panel did a thorough job of reviewing both the published evidence and the evidence from the pilot process before unanimously recommending the current draft Tobacco Treatment Measure set. Our members have the utmost respect for the Technical Advisory Panel's judgment on this matter. In addition, we will be encouraging the National Quality Forum to fully endorse the measure.

We are hopeful that the full Tobacco Treatment Measure set will be published as recommended in July, 2011, and will subsequently be fully endorsed by NQF, CSM and other agencies with an interest in improving the quality of healthcare.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Hughes".

John Hughes, MD
President, ATTUD

cc: Michael Steinburg, Matt Bars, Audrey Darville