

Vincennes University Tobacco User Surcharge



Vincennes University's greatest asset is the well-being of its employees. The institution's wellness initiatives are designed to prevent illness, improve quality of life and decrease health care costs. Tobacco users on the Vincennes University health care plan will pay a \$35 biweekly surcharge for the 2015 plan year.

All employees covered under a Vincennes University health care plan must certify annually whether you and/or your spouse (if covered under VU's plan) use tobacco products or are tobacco-free by completing the online Tobacco Affidavit under the Employee tab of the MyVU web portal. The deadline to complete this Affidavit is **Friday, November 21, 2014 at 4 p.m.** for the 2015 plan year. Please refer to the Instructions for Electronic Signature of Tobacco Affidavit for detailed instructions for completing this online form. **If the online certification is not completed, the surcharge will be automatically applied effective January 1, 2015 and will remain in place for the 2015 plan year.**

Tobacco includes any form of tobacco products that are smoked (e.g. cigarettes, cigars, pipes), applied to the gums (dipping and chewing tobacco), and/or inhaled as snuff.

Tobacco-Free Employees

- To certify as a non-tobacco user, you and your spouse (if covered under VU's plan) must be tobacco-free. Complete the Affidavit by November 21, 2014 and the \$35 biweekly surcharge will be waived for the 2015 plan year.
- Intentional falsification of this affidavit could lead to the loss of health care coverage.

Tobacco Users

- If you and/or your spouse are a tobacco user (if covered under VU's plan), certify the Affidavit by November 21, 2014 by 4 p.m. as such and VU will provide opportunities for you to waive the surcharge.
- Those who are not tobacco-free can participate in a tobacco cessation program. Tobacco cessation workshops that are endorsed by the American Lung Association will be made available to employees and spouses. Please contact Rhonda Laue in Human Resources at rlaue@vinu.edu for more information.
- The initial tobacco cessation class will be provided free of charge to employees and spouses. In addition, the VU employee medical plan will cover 100% of the cost of tobacco cessation prescription drugs. Coverage is limited to a 180-day supply per covered individual per year. Covered prescription drugs include Chantix, Zyban (bupropion), and Nicotrol. Upon successful completion of the program (the employee and spouse become tobacco-free) the surcharge will be waived.