



**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Managed Care Plan Liaisons to NYS

**From:** Thomas Smith, MD, Medical Director, OMH Office of Managed Care  
Gary Weiskopf, Associate Commissioner, OMH Office of Managed Care

**Date:** March 30, 2015

**Re:** Information regarding smoking cessation

---

While the prevalence of smoking in the behavioral health population remains high and the health consequences of smoking are well-documented, nicotine dependence is significantly underdiagnosed and undertreated among consumers of OMH services. As we move toward an integrated system of care, OMH has identified smoking cessation as a target initiative and is committed to reducing rates of tobacco use among individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI).

OMH recently held a Statewide Grand Rounds regarding tobacco and serious mental illness. Addressing the unique challenges of smoking cessation in the SMI population, the presentation calls attention to the way that culture change and the implementation of tobacco-free treatment settings will be imperative to improving the overall health of OMH consumers.

The presentation has been archived and Plans can access a recording of the webcast here: <http://www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/bps/150121-tobacco.html>

Additionally, a pdf version of the presentation is enclosed. Thank you for your ongoing efforts.

**CC:** Behavioral Health Managed Care Plan Liaisons  
DOH Managed Care Plan Liaisons  
Robert Myers, OMH  
Pat Lincourt, OASAS  
Alyssa Slezak, DOH  
Greg Allen, DOH  
Vallencia Lloyd, DOH  
Charles Morgan, OASAS