Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training Program Accreditation

**Background**

Tobacco Treatment Specialists (TTS) play an increasingly important role in providing treatment for tobacco use and dependence. Treatment for tobacco dependence is now widely available in the UK; every state in the US now funds access to telephone treatment, and many countries, employers, and healthcare providers now provide some form of treatment. Consistent with the mission of the Association for the Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence (ATTUD), in 2005 ATTUD established Core Competencies for tobacco dependence treatment providers. Many funding agencies now require that TTSs are trained to meet the ATTUD Core Competencies. However, until now, there has been no process to objectively determine the extent to which TTS Training Programs adhere to these standards. ATTUD developed TTS Training Program Accreditation in order to provide a process to objectively determining adherence to these standards as well as to enhance the overall capacity to provide training in evidence-based treatment for tobacco dependence.

**Process**

The ATTUD developed a two-phase process:

**Phase I:** Provision of a standardized listing of existing TTS Training Programs on the ATTUD website. The Training Issues Committee developed:
- Criteria for posting eligibility
- Online application
- Application review process
- Interest from the national and international tobacco treatment training community

**Process established January 2008**

**Phase II:** Development of a sustainable process for assessing TTS Training Program content. Working with the Training Issues Committee, the ATTUD Board of Directors confirmed an independent, multidisciplinary Commission of nine experts. Commissioners serve two year terms. The founding Commission established an accreditation and review process as well as reviewed and processed the first TTS Training Program application. This Commission will continue to review applications until the next Commission is appointed in 2010.

**Currently lists nine programs from four countries: USA, Canada, Thailand, and Argentina**

**ATTUD is an organization of providers dedicated to the promotion of and increased access to evidence-based tobacco treatment for the tobacco user.**

**Future Directions**

Highly trained TTS’s will continue to play an increasingly important role in treating tobacco use and dependence. TTS Training Program Accreditation will provide an industry accepted standard for training and inform those seeking training of the accepted standards for practice, thereby enhancing the overall capacity to provide standardized, evidence-based treatment to tobacco users and contributing to the mission of ATTUD.

**References**


**Author Affiliations**

*University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR; Free and Clear, Inc., Seattle, WA; New Mexico Medical Review Association, Albuquerque, NM; Fire Department of New York City Tobacco Treatment Program and iQuit Smoking Consultation Service, New York, NY; Ephraim Community Hospital Wellness Center, Stevens, PA; University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ; University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA; University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS.

This project was supported by a educational grant from Pfizer, Inc.