

Tobacco Pronouncement

We, the professional membership of the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, hereby express our concern regarding the existing allocation of funds generated through the Multistate Tobacco Settlement of 1998. While individual states have committed healthcare dollars differently, only three states presently meet the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the appropriate use of these funds. The prevention and cessation of tobacco use represents the most intelligent and effective way to reduce illness in our society, and the future fiscal benefits will impact state budgets for years to come. We, the members of the AACVPR, believe the misallocation of funds by the majority of recipient states is short-sighted and violates the intent and purpose of the tobacco settlement.

The American Association of Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation has been and remains in the forefront of delivering care to chronically ill individuals directly afflicted by tobacco usage. The membership of AACVPR believes a more equitable distribution of this abundant financial resource--to prevent tobacco usage as well as provide patient care--will substantially impact the health and fiscal well being of our patients and society. We respectfully call on the governors and representatives of the 50 states to acknowledge and remedy this situation by redirecting these funds toward improving patient care and preventing illness.