The Clinical Practice Guidelines for Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence (Fiore, et al., 2000) recommend that health care providers ASK if their patients smoke, ADVISE smokers to quit, and ASSIST patients with quit attempts through counseling and medications.

- Ask: The percentage of smokers who had seen a health care provider in the past 12 months who were asked if they smoke has remained consistently high.
- Advise: The percentage of smokers who were advised to quit by their health care providers is approximately 70% in 2014.
- Assist: Although the percentage of smokers who were advised to quit and then received assistance from their health care providers has significantly increased since 2003, the percentage of health care providers giving assistance to smokers remains below 50%.

The definition of a provider that assists smokers with a quit attempt includes those that provide both direct cessation services and those that refer patients to other cessation resources. The aim of the Bureau of Tobacco Control’s Health Systems for a Tobacco-Free New York initiative is to work with medical and mental health care organizations to implement systematic, evidenced-based tobacco dependence treatment. This work will enhance the understanding of patient-provider interactions and improve the delivery of guideline concordant care.