


Title: Tobacco as it Relates to Religious or Ceremonial Use

Policy 91-2

Contact:	Rules Specialist, ERB Division	Effective:	January 1, 2018
		Rescinded:	
Associated RCW:		Supersedes:	N/A
Associated WAC:	182-12-300(3)		
Assoc. fed law/reg:	45 CFR 146.121(f)	Owner:	Rules & Policy Manager, ERB Division
Associated Procedures:			
Associated Forms & Communication	HCA Form 50-100 HCA Form 51-205 HCA Form 50-109	Approved by:	 Acting ERB Director
		Position:	ERB Division Director
		Date approved:	12/1/2017

Purpose:

This policy applies whenever a Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) subscriber is attesting to an enrolled member's tobacco use status. The purpose of the policy is to clarify the exception for the religious or ceremonial use of tobacco.

WAC 182-08-015 Definitions: "Tobacco use" means any use of tobacco products within the past two months. Tobacco use, however, does not include the religious or ceremonial use of tobacco.

Policy:

1. "Religious use of tobacco" means the use of tobacco products as part of a formal tradition, rite, or ritual. An example of this would be the use of tobacco products during a Native American religious ritual.
2. "Ceremonial use of tobacco" means the use of tobacco products for ceremonial purposes in connection with the practice of a traditional ceremony or ritual.
3. A subscriber may attest that an enrolled member does not use tobacco products if that enrollee's only use falls within the exception for religious or ceremonial use.