HCHS/SOL Question by Question Instructions
Tobacco Use Form (TBE/TBS), Version A

General Instructions

The questionnaire obtains the current and past use of tobacco as well as exposure to secondhand smoke (environmental tobacco smoke).

Question by Question Instructions

Q1.   Question asks the participant to estimate if they have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime. If they are having difficulty estimating this number, remind the participant that a typical pack of cigarettes purchased in the US contains 20 cigarettes (5 packs=100 cigarettes). This question pertains to cigarette only—questions about other types of tobacco use will be administered later in this questionnaire. Participants who respond no to this question are skipped to Q10.

Q2.   Question asks the participant to estimate the age at which they started smoking. Round their answer to the nearest year. If the response is with a half-year or 6-month interval, round the estimate up and record in the box provided (e.g., 10½ years old= "11"). If they indicate they never smoked regularly, check the box provided.

Q3.   Question asks the participant if they now smoke cigarettes daily, smoke some days or not at all. Emphasize the word "now" when you deliver this question. The next questions sets you administer are dependant on the participant response to this question. Those who respond "daily" are administered Q4; those who respond "some days" are skipped to Q5 and those who respond "not at all" are skipped to Q6.

Q4.   Question asks daily smokers to estimate how many cigarettes they smoke each day. If they report less than 1 cigarette per day, record "1".

Q4a.   Question asks daily smokers if had ever quit smoking for 6 months or longer. Those who respond no are skipped to Q9; those who respond yes are asked to estimate the number of years in total they quit smoking (Q4b). Some current smokers may indicate that they quit on more than one occasion for varying periods. In this case, ask the participant to estimate the total number of years they had quit. Round their answer to the nearest year; if the respond with a half-year or 6-month interval round their estimate up and record in the box provided (e.g., 1½ years= "2"). After completing this question, the remaining current smokers are skipped to Q7.

Q5.   Question asks the occasionally smoking participant to estimate the number of days in the past 30 that they smoked cigarettes. Record a value between 0-30. Q5a asks the occasional smokers to estimate daily consumption on the days they smoked in the past 30 days. If they report less than 1 cigarette per day, record "1". Q5b asks the occasional smoker if the had ever quit smoking for 6 months or longer. Those responding no are skipped to Q9. Those responding yes are asked to estimate the total number of years they quit (Q5c). As with current smokers, some occasional smokers may indicate that they quit on more than one occasion for varying periods. In this case, ask the participant to estimate the total number of years they had quit. Round their answer to the nearest year; if the respond with a half-year or 6-month interval round their estimate up and

record in the box provided (e.g., 1½ years= "2"). After completing this question, the remaining occasional smokers are skipped to Q7.

Q6. Former smokers are asked to estimate the age at which they quit smoking (Q6). Round their answer to the nearest year; if the respond with a half-year or 6-month interval round their estimate up and record in the box provided (e.g., 10½ years= "11"). Q6a asks the occasional smoker if the had ever quit smoking for 6 months or longer prior to quitting for good. Be sure that participant understands that you are asking about previous periods when they had quit cigarettes. If the participant responds no, they are skipped to Q7; those responding yes are asked to estimate the total number of years they had quit smoking. Round their answer to the nearest year; if the respond with a half-year or 6-month interval round their estimate up and record in the box provided (e.g., 1½ years= "2").

Q7. Administer to all current, occasional, and former smokers with a history of quitting for at least one six month period or who are not currently smoking. Ask the participant to indicate the main reason they quit. Check only one box. If the participant gives a reason not listed, check the "other" box and write in the reason.

Q8a. Question asks participant to indicate if a doctor has ever prescribed any smoking cessation aids in any previous quit attempts. Nicotine replacement can be delivered by chewing gum or by wearing a patch on the skin which delivers the drug transdermally. Nicotine can also be delivered via nasal spray. In addition to the nasal spray, other smoking cessation aids which are only available with a doctors' prescription include Zyban and Chantix. Zyban (bupropion) and Chantix are taken in pill form. Check no, if participant reports not using any doctor prescribed smoking cessation aids.

8b. Question asks participant to indicate if they have used an over the counter aid in any attempt to quit smoking. Nicotine replacement can be delivered by chewing gum or by wearing a patch on the skin which delivers the drug transdermally. No prescription is necessary to purchase these items. Check no, if over the counter smoking cessation aids were not used by the participant.

8c. Question asks participant to indicate if they have used any type of behavioral or group therapy in previous attempts to quit. This includes hypnosis, acupuncture, counseling, and support groups. Check no if participant did not use any type of behavioral or group therapy in attempts to quit smoking.

Q9. For all current, occasional, and former smokers, ask the participant to estimate the average number of cigarettes per day during the entire time that they smoked. Average should be computed over all days including smoking and non-smoking. This may be difficult for the participant to estimate since they must consider variations in smoking rates over years of use. Remind them that we are only interested in getting their best estimate.

Q10. Question asks all participants to indicate if they ever smoked a pipe on a regular basis. Emphasize the word 'ever' when administering this question. Regular use is defined as the consumption of 12 or more ounces of pipe tobacco in their lifetime. If a participant is not accustomed to the English measurement system, interviewer can say the equivalent of 12 ounces in grams, i.e. approximately 340 grams.

Q11.   Question asks the participant if they ever smoked cigars on a regular basis. Emphasize the word 'ever' when administering this question. Regular use is defined as more than one cigar per week for one year at any time during their life.

Q12.   Question asks if the participant lived with a cigarette smoker prior to age 13. Those who respond "no" or "don't know" are skipped to Q14; those who respond yes are administered Q13.

Q13.   Question asks if the participants' mother smoked in the home (when they were less than 14 years of age). If the participant's mother was not living in the home, clarify that the question refers to the primary female caregiver that lived in the home with the participant during childhood.

Q14.   Question asks the participant to indicate the number of persons living in their household who smoke regularly inside the home (prior to age 14). The participant should not count themselves if they are a smoker who smokers in the home. Check one box which indicates the number of regular smokers who smoke in the home. Participants who indicate that one or more did smoke inside the home on a regular basis are skipped to Q16.

Q15.   The remaining participants are asked if they have ever lived with regular cigarette smoker since age 13. The participant should not count themselves if they are a smoker.

Q16.   Question asks the participant to estimate the total number of hours spent per week in the presence of smokers including at home, work, in motor vehicles and other close quarters. There are 168 hours in a week, so you should not record a value higher than this number.