Affordable Care Act and Tobacco Control: A Timeline

March 23, 2010:
President Obama signs the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law

September 23, 2010:
New private plans required to cover preventive services, including tobacco cessation

October 1, 2010:
All Medicaid programs required to cover tobacco cessation for pregnant women

February 2, 2012:
Prevention and Public Health Fund raided. Cut by $6.25 billion in the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act

March 15, 2012:
CDC launches the Tips from Former Smokers campaign, funded by the Prevention and Public Health Fund

November 26, 2012:
HHS releases proposed rules implementing Essential Health Benefit, rules on tobacco surcharges and wellness programs

January 1, 2014:
Medicaid eligibility expands to 138 percent of the federal poverty level

January 1, 2014:
State health insurance exchanges implemented

January 1, 2014:
Tobacco cessation medications can no longer be excluded from state Medicaid coverage

January 1, 2011:
Medicare enrollees eligible for a new prevention and wellness visit, which can include tobacco cessation treatment

January 1, 2011:
Medicare prescription drug “donut hole” begins to close, making tobacco cessation medications more affordable for seniors who want to quit

December 16, 2011:
HHS releases bulletin outlining its implementation approach to the Essential Health Benefit

January 1, 2013:
Medicaid programs that cover preventive services, including tobacco cessation, will receive an increase in matching funds

2016:
HHS will re-evaluate the process for determining the Essential Health Benefit