

A break for smokers? Glitch may limit penalties

9 July 2013, by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

(AP)—They have to huddle outside office buildings and they can't get their nicotine fix by lighting up on airplanes. But now smokers may catch a break from a glitch in President Barack Obama's health care law.

The administration has quietly notified insurers that a computer system problem will limit penalties as high as 50 percent that the law says the companies may charge smokers.

A fix will take at least a year to put in place.

Experts say older smokers are more likely to benefit from the [glitch](#). But depending on how insurers respond, it's also possible that younger smokers could wind up facing higher penalties than they otherwise would have.

Some see a pattern of delays emerging as the health care overhaul moves closer to its Oct. 1 launch.

© 2013 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

APA citation: A break for smokers? Glitch may limit penalties (2013, July 9) retrieved 19 January 2022 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-07-smokers-glitch-limit-penalties.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.