



## Risks of Smoking

This information sheet is being provided to you because you indicated that you are **currently smoking**. All providers of care, including specialists, are being encouraged, and incentivized monetarily, to discuss smoking cessation with their patients. Because of this it is very likely that you hear about this repeatedly with all your doctors.

The government understands the cost of smoking as it relates to diseases that require hospitalizations, missed work, frequent doctor visits, and disability. Therefore, its goal is to reduce the chance that you will get sick directly from diseases like lung and heart disease and stroke. These diseases are the most common and well-known risks of smoking but there are many others.

Considering smoking as it relates to eye disease, there are two major risks: **macular degeneration(ARM)** and **cataracts**.



### **Macular Degeneration(ARM) with bleeding**

Macular degeneration(ARM) is a disease that steals the central vision away and in some cases can cause legal blindness. Unfortunately there is no perfect treatment for this and it leaves many patients unable to drive, read, watch television and thus very frustrated.



### **Cataract**

While cataracts are routinely operated on successfully today, surgery is not risk free.

**Thyroid eye disease** causing bulging, red eyes is also more common among smokers.

**OVER**



### **Grave's Disease**

We encourage you to not give up on trying to quit smoking. It is never too late to help reduce risk. We do not actively work with patients to stop smoking but encourage you to work with you primary care doctor to find a solution.