OBJECTIVE: To conduct a preliminary investigation of the efficacy of contingency contracting to enhance success rates among schizophrenic patients who want to quit smoking.

RESEARCH DESIGN: Twenty participants are being randomly assigned to a contingency contracting or comparison condition for 4 weeks following their smoking quit date (the "intervention phase" of the study). All participants receive the nicotine patch and counseling. Outcome variables include smoking status and psychiatric symptoms.

METHODS: Smoking status is being assessed 5 times per week for all Ss during the intervention phase. Participants in the contingency contracting condition receive vouchers for valued goods (e.g., food, clothing) for achieving and maintaining smoking abstinence as determined at each assessment. Final assessment occurs 4 weeks after the termination of the intervention phase of the study.

PROGRESS: We have recruited 4 Ss thus far. The requirement of attending 5 assessment meetings per week during the intervention phase has been an obstacle to recruitment. Many potential subjects say they would be willing to do this only if they are in the contingency management condition. In light of this feedback, we have submitted a request for revision to the IRB (which is currently pending) in which we propose to eliminate the comparison condition from the design (similar to an open-label medication study).