



Expansion of Smoking Cessation Counseling to ALL Medicaid Beneficiaries

Effective April 1, 2011, Medicaid expanded coverage of smoking cessation counseling (SCC) to ALL Medicaid beneficiaries. Each Medicaid beneficiary will be allowed six counseling sessions during any 12 continuous months which must be provided on a face-to-face basis. Smoking cessation counseling complements the use of prescription and non-prescription smoking cessation products. These products are also covered by Medicaid.



Smoking cessation counseling services is reimbursable when provided by the following provider types:

- *Office-based practitioners (physicians, registered nurse practitioners [RNP], and licensed midwives [LM]); and*
- *Article 28 hospital outpatient departments (OPD), free-standing diagnostic and treatment centers (D&TC) and federally qualified health centers (FQHC) including FQHC school based health centers (SBHC) that bill using Ambulatory Patient Groups (APGs).*

Reimbursement for smoking cessation counseling (SCC) must meet the following criteria:

- *SCC must be provided face-to-face by a physician, registered physician assistant, registered nurse practitioner (RNP), or licensed midwife (LM) either with or without an Evaluation and Management procedure code.*
- *SCC may take place during individual or group counseling sessions. Group sessions will be reimbursable effective June 1, 2011, for office-based practitioners and July 1, 2011, for Article 28 clinics.*
- *Each Medicaid beneficiary will be allowed six counseling sessions during any 12 continuous months; including any combination of individual or group counseling sessions.*
- *Claims for SCC must include the appropriate SCC CPT Procedure Code. Only one procedure code per day may be billed.*
- **99406** – *Intermediate SCC, 3 to 10 minutes (billable ONLY as an individual session) OR*
- **99407** – *Intensive SCC, greater than 10 minutes (billable as an individual or group session; using the 'HQ' modifier to indicate a group SCC session, up to eight patients in a group).*
- *Claims must include ICD-9-CM diagnosis code, 305.1 tobacco use disorder.*

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POLICY & BILLING GUIDANCE

Expansion of Smoking Cessation Counseling to ALL Medicaid Beneficiaries *(continued)*

Providers should be aware of the following guidelines for smoking cessation counseling:

The Clinical Practice Guideline, “*Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence: 2008 Update*” demonstrated that efficacious treatments for tobacco users exist and should become a part of standard care giving. The guideline recommends that a practitioner should follow the “**5 A’s**” of treating tobacco dependence, which include: **Ask, Advise, Assess, Assist, and Arrange** follow-up. For patients not ready to make a quit attempt, clinicians should use a brief intervention designed to promote the motivation to quit. Content areas that should be addressed can be captured by the “**5 R’s**”: **Relevance, Risks, Rewards, Roadblocks, and Repetition**. Research suggests that the “**5 R’s**” enhance future quit attempts. (Chapter 3 - Clinical Interventions for Tobacco Use and Dependence).

The following links provide further information regarding evidence-based clinical approaches to SCC and pharmacotherapy:

AHRQ’s Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence Pathfinder--Resources for Clinicians and Consumers – This site provides the DHHS Public Health Service Clinical Practice Guideline for *Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence: 2008 Update*. (PHSG) and includes evidence-based treatment, provider and patient educational materials. <http://www.ahrq.gov/path/tobacco.htm>.

Quick Reference Guide for Clinicians – Here you’ll find the abbreviated version of the PHSG. <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/tobacco/tobaqrg.htm>.

NYS Smokers’ Quitline – Refer your patients to the NYS Smokers’ Quitline where they can receive free counseling and a two week starter kit of nicotine replacement therapy. Patient and provider education materials and fact sheets are also available. www.nysmokefree.com.

Cessation Centers – New York State’s 19 Tobacco Cessation Centers provide free training and technical assistance for providers on evidence-based cessation treatment. These free services include, on-site staff training, patient educational materials, information on local cessation programs and assistance with the NYS Smokers’ Quitline – “Fax-to-Quit” program. http://www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/tobacco_control/community_partners/tobacco_cessation_centers.htm.

Smokefree.gov website sponsored by NCI, CDC, and the American Cancer Society – Provides tobacco users with online cessation support and links to other resources. <http://www.smokefree.gov/>.

Questions? Please call the Division of Financial Planning and Policy at (518) 473-2160.

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