

Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers

Reimbursement for Tobacco Cessation

With increased awareness of the dangers of tobacco use and exposure to second hand smoke, more patients need tobacco cessation counseling and referrals to available resources. This fact sheet explains existing options for Ohio health care providers to counsel patients about tobacco use and second hand smoke exposure, and bill for it.

Clinical Guideline for Tobacco Cessation

The Public Health Service recommends¹ that physicians follow a “5 A’s” model for tobacco cessation:

- **Ask** - systematically identify all tobacco users at every visit
- **Advise** – Strongly urge all tobacco users to quit
- **Assess** – Determine willingness to make a quit attempt
- **Assist** – Aid the patient in quitting
- **Arrange** – Schedule follow up contact

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)

For plan years beginning on or after September 23, 2010, PPACA requires preventive care services, including tobacco cessation, be provided at no cost to patients (no co pay or deductible). However, PPACA "grandfathers" certain plans that were in existence on the date of enactment from some of the insurance market reform requirements. Most notably, a grandfathered plan is exempt from the health reform law's limits on cost-sharing, requirements to offer preventive services without co pays, and the requirement to establish an appeals process for disputed claims.

What It Means to You

Reimbursement for tobacco cessation counseling and medication by commercial health plans, Medicare, and Medicaid varies, but is improving.

For *commercial health plans*, the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes are based on time devoted to the service and the use of these codes requires documentation in the clinical record. These codes are for face-to-face counseling by a physician or other qualified health care professional, using “standardized, evidence-based screening instruments and tools with reliable documentation and appropriate sensitivity.”

- 99406: For intermediate visit of between 3 and 10 minutes;
- 99407: For an intensive visit lasting longer than 10 minutes.

Your billing department should inquire directly to private plans to see whether tobacco treatment services are covered.

¹ Fiore MC, Bailey WC, Cohen SJ, et al. *Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence*. Clinical Practice Guideline. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Public Health Service. June 2000. http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco/treating_tobacco_use.pdf

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Medicare: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) created codes for reporting comparable services for Medicare fee-for-service schedule (FFS) patients. Coverage for up to three minutes of counseling is considered by Medicare to be included in reimbursement for the standard evaluation and management (E/M) office visit. When billing for more than three minutes of smoking and tobacco cessation counseling, use the following HCPCS codes:

- G0375: Smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling visit; intermediate, greater than 3 minutes up to 10 minutes.
- G0376: Smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling visit; intensive, greater than 10 minutes.

Medicaid coverage for tobacco treatment varies from state to state. PPACA made some changes that affect state Medicaid coverage of tobacco cessation treatments:

- As of October 1, 2010, all Medicaid programs are required to cover a comprehensive cessation benefit for pregnant women on Medicaid.
- Tobacco cessation medications have been removed from the list of excludable medications; Medicaid programs may no longer explicitly exclude these treatments from coverage.
- States that cover all preventive services given an 'A' or 'B' by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (including tobacco cessation) with no cost-sharing will begin receiving a one percentage point increase in the federal Medicaid matching rate for those services starting in 2014.

Currently, Ohio Medicaid covers pharmacotherapies but not counseling. Many Medicaid patients may use Ohio's quitline.

Resources:

American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Ask and Act Program

www.aafp.org/online/en/home/clinical/publichealth/tobacco/askandact.html

Ohio Quitline (for uninsured and pregnant women)

800.QUIT.NOW

American Lung Association

1.800.LUNG.USA (1.800.586.4872)

American Cancer Society

<http://www.cancer.org/Healthy/StayAwayfromTobacco/GuidetoQuittingSmoking/index>

National Cancer Institute Tobacco Control Research Brand Quit Smoking Site

www.smokefree.gov

Become an Ex

www.becomeanex.org

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