



State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

NEWSLETTER

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TO: All providers – **For Action**
Health Maintenance Organizations – **For Information Only**

SUBJECT: **New Policy Regarding Coverage of Tobacco Cessation Services**

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

PURPOSE: To notify New Jersey FamilyCare (NJFC)/Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) providers of a policy change intended to update NJFC/Medicaid policies regarding coverage of tobacco cessation services.

BACKGROUND: Current coverage of medically necessary tobacco cessation services, including counseling and pharmacotherapy, for children and adolescents, are mandatory under the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program. For beneficiaries 21 years of age and older, pharmacotherapy and counseling as part of a routine office visit are also covered. For information concerning tobacco cessation products that are covered by the NJFC/Medicaid program, please see the New Jersey Drug Utilization Review (NJDURB) Bulletin, Volume 1, No. 06, dated June 2009. This bulletin may also be viewed online at <http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/boards/durb/>.

Section 4107 of the Affordable Care Act amended the Social Security Act to require coverage of counseling and pharmacotherapy for cessation of tobacco use by the general NJFC/Medicaid population, with emphasis on treatment for pregnant women. Public Health Service (PHS) guidelines for the general population require multiple attempts to quit; they recognize medication and individual, group and telephone counseling as effective treatment modalities. PHS Guidelines may be found at www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco/treating_tobacco_use08.pdf

PHS guidelines for pregnant women require that pregnant smokers be offered face-to-face counseling exceeding the minimal advice to quit. Pharmacotherapy for pregnant women is not uniformly recommended, but can be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Clinicians should be encouraging all patients attempting to quit to use effective medications for tobacco dependence treatment, except when contraindicated or for specific populations for which there is insufficient evidence of effectiveness (pregnant women, adolescents, light smokers and smokeless tobacco-users).

Tobacco-use cessation counseling services may be provided by physicians, advanced practice nurses, clinical nurse specialists, nurse midwives, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and independent clinics.

ACTION: To ensure compliance with Section 4107 of the Affordable Care Act, and consistent with PHS guidelines, the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services is updating its policies regarding coverage of tobacco-use cessation services as follows:

1. NJFC/Medicaid shall provide coverage for at least four (4) face-to-face tobacco-use cessation counseling sessions per quit attempt, with a minimum of two (2) quit attempts per year.
2. Tobacco-use counseling and pharmacotherapy shall be covered for pregnant women during the prenatal period through the postpartum period (the 60-day period following termination of the pregnancy).
3. Tobacco-use cessation services shall be available to NJFC/Medicaid beneficiaries at no cost.
4. Tobacco-use cessation counseling services may be billed to the NJFC/Medicaid program by reporting the following HCPCS procedure codes:
 - 99406 Smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling visit; intermediate, greater than 3 minutes up to 10 minutes
 - 99407 Smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling visit; intensive, greater than 10 minutes

The NJDURB Bulletin, Volume 1, No. 06, provides additional information regarding pharmacotherapy for the treatment of tobacco cessation, based on NJDURB recommendations and approvals by the NJ Department of Human Services and the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services.

- Studies investigating potential relationships between age and the effects of nicotine have not been performed in children under 18 years of age.
- Combination-treatment modalities may be prior-authorized as per evidence based Public Health Service treatment guidelines.
- Extended durations of treatment, beyond 24 weeks, require prior authorization.

If you have any questions concerning this Newsletter, please contact Molina Medicaid Solutions (formerly Unisys) Provider Relations at 1-800-776-6334.

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