



Connecticut Medical Assistance Program
Policy Transmittal 2013- 25

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October 2013

Roderick Bremby, Commissioner

Effective Date: November 1, 2013
Contact: William Halsey 860-424-5077

TO: Behavioral Health Clinics, Enhanced Care Clinics, State Operated Mental Health Clinics, and Federally Qualified Health Centers

RE: Smoking Cessation Group Counseling Services

The purpose of this policy transmittal is to inform behavioral health clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that the Department is introducing a new service related to smoking cessation. The CT Medical Assistance Program currently reimburses for individual counseling for smoking cessation, but does not reimburse providers for smoking cessation group counseling.

Effective, **November 1, 2013**, the Department will pay for smoking cessation group counseling provided by behavioral health clinics and certain FQHCs.

Smoking Cessation Group Counseling Description

Group counseling services will provide basic knowledge about the process of quitting smoking and will present tobacco treatment from a social learning perspective. Through group dynamics, participants will learn effective quitting strategies and resources from other group members and the group facilitator. Tobacco treatment strategies will be presented within a framework that includes pre-cessation, cessation and relapse prevention phases. Lifestyle changes that support quitting smoking and a generally healthy lifestyle will be discussed. The group facilitator will tailor the strategies of the group counseling sessions to the unique needs of the individual smoker and discuss harm reduction as a treatment strategy.

Smoking Cessation Group Counseling Models

The following models represent those smoking cessation models that have evidence of effectiveness with smokers. Providers may only bill for models approved by the Department. If a provider wishes to use a model not listed below, the provider must submit a formal request to the Department that includes the model the provider wishes to use and evidence that the model is effective. The provider will be notified within ten business days if the Department approves the

model. Models currently approved by the Department include:

- Learning About Healthy Living
- Freedom From Smoking
- Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence
- Rx For Change
- Not-On-Tobacco
- Freshstart

Procedure Code

The following procedure code should be used when providing smoking cessation group counseling:

99412: Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to individuals in a group setting; approximately 60 minutes.

This code can only be used when the duration of the group meets or exceeds 45 minutes and the individual has attended the session for the entire 45 minutes.

Authorization

Prior authorization is required for behavioral health outpatient treatment, including smoking cessation. For individuals who are already in treatment and have received authorization for outpatient treatment, no additional authorization request is required for smoking cessation group counseling.

Maximum Number of Units per Episode/Year

The maximum number of smoking cessation group counseling units per person per episode of care is twelve (12). The maximum number of smoking cessation group counseling units per person per 365 days is twenty-four (24). One unit is equivalent to one group session. These limits are applicable to behavioral health clinics and FQHCs.

Group Counseling Facilitators

Individuals must have the appropriate training and qualifications in order to facilitate smoking cessation group counseling. There must be documentation that the group facilitator is trained in the specific model used by the provider. Supervision of staff and progress notes written by the group facilitator must comply with state regulations.

Behavioral Health Clinics

The minimum number of individuals to comprise a group is three. Except as noted below for FQHCs, the maximum number of individuals in any smoking cessation group, regardless of payer, is 12 individuals, not including the individual facilitating the group. Smoking cessation group counseling may be billed on the same day as another clinic service and may be a component service of an Intermediate Care Program as long as all requirements are met regarding documented behavioral health clinic services.

Clinic Rate

The rate for group counseling for both Behavioral Health Clinics and Enhanced Care Clinics is:

99412: \$15.00 per person

Federally Qualified Health Centers

Only those Federally Qualified Health Centers that are licensed as a psychiatric outpatient clinic or an outpatient treatment facility for the care or treatment of the substance abusive or dependent person may provide this service.

FQHCs should use encounter code T1015 when billing for smoking cessation group counseling. The procedure code 99412 must be included on the claim.

Per the requirements of the encounter code reimbursement, services must be provided by a health professional or an allied health professional. Health professional means a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, nurse midwife, chiropractor, ophthalmologist, optometrist, podiatrist, dentist, clinical psychologist, licensed clinical social worker or psychiatrist.

Allied Health Professional means a licensed or certified practitioner performing within his or her scope of practice or a license eligible practitioner.

For FQHCs, the minimum number of individuals to comprise a group is three. The maximum number of individuals in any smoking cessation group, regardless of payer, is 8 individuals, not including the professional facilitating the group.

In order to provide this service, the FQHC's Scope of Project must include smoking cessation services. If the Scope of Project does not include smoking cessation, the FQHC must enroll separately in order to bill procedure code 99412.

The Department is currently in the process of analyzing the FQHC reimbursement methodology for this service. A new Policy Transmittal will be issued if any changes occur as a result of this analysis.

Documentation

All services must be documented accurately in the medical record. The plan of care must include an order for smoking cessation services. The progress note for each group participant must include the date of the group, the duration of the group, and the group facilitator's name and credentials.

Billing Questions

Providers must use one of the following tobacco-related diagnosis codes as the primary diagnosis on the claim when billing the smoking cessation group counseling code.

- 305.1 – Tobacco Use Disorder
- 292.0 – Tobacco Withdrawal

For billing questions, please contact the HP Provider Assistance Center, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 1-800-842-8440.

Posting Instructions: Provider Transmittals can be downloaded from the HP Web site at www.ctdssmap.com.

Distribution: This policy transmittal is being distributed to holders of the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program Provider Manual by HP.

Responsible Unit: DSS, Division of Health Services, William Halsey, (860) 424-5077.

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