



State of New Mexico
Medical Assistance Program Manual
Supplement



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TO: ALL PROVIDERS PARTICIPATING IN THE NEW MEXICO MEDICAID PROGRAM

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SUBJECTS: TOBACCO CESSATION TREATMENT SERVICES:

- I. TOBACCO CESSATION SERVICES AND COVERAGE FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS**
- II. ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS AND PRACTITIONERS**
- III. PROCEDURE AND DIAGNOSIS CODES**
- IV. QUITLINE**

The New Mexico Medicaid program will now provide coverage of tobacco cessation sessions as described in this supplement for Medicaid recipients with pregnancy related categories of eligibility (030 or 035) and for Medicaid enrolled children under age 21.

A provider may check a recipient's eligibility on the New Mexico Medicaid web portal, at <https://nmmedicaid.acs-inc.com/nm/general/home.do> or by calling the Automated Voice Response System (AVRS) at 1- 800-820-6901.

The New Mexico Medicaid program will expand counseling services available to pregnant women to include tobacco cessation counseling in addition to an assessment. The New Mexico Medicaid program will also cover tobacco cessation counseling for children under the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit in addition to an assessment.

Other services related to tobacco cessation are also described in this supplement.

These instructions are for recipients enrolled in the Medicaid fee-for-service program. For recipients enrolled in a managed care plan, please follow their plan's instructions on billing for services. When the provider rendering the service is a behavioral health provider, OptumHealth New Mexico must be billed.

I. TOBACCO CESSATION SERVICES AND COVERAGE FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS

A. Tobacco Cessation Drug Items

The New Mexico Medicaid program covers all prescribed tobacco cessation drug items for eligible Medicaid fee-for-service recipients who have drug benefits under Medicaid when ordered by a prescriber and dispensed by a pharmacy, excluding the following:

- (1) Recipients eligible for family planning services only (category of eligibility 029)
- (2) Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB) only – Categories of eligibility 41, or 44 - services are limited to the payment of co-insurance and deductible following Medicare payment, unless the recipient is also eligible for Medicaid benefits under an additional category of eligibility

Tobacco cessation products that the New Mexico Medicaid program covers include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sustained release bupropion products;
- Varenicline tartrate tablets; and
- Prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) nicotine replacement drug products, such as a patch, gum, or inhaler

The New Mexico Medicaid program does not require prior authorization for reimbursement for tobacco cessation products, but the items must be prescribed by a practitioner.

B. New Coverage for Medicaid Recipients Who Are Eligible for Pregnancy Only Services (category of eligibility 030 or 035) and for Medicaid enrolled children under age 21.

The New Mexico Medicaid program makes reimbursement for assessing the pregnant and postpartum woman's tobacco dependence including a written tobacco cessation treatment plan of care, as part of an evaluation/management (E&M) service and may be billed using the E&M codes. The Medicaid program also covers face-to-face counseling when rendered by an appropriate provider.

(1) Counseling:

The effectiveness of counseling is comparable to pharmacotherapy alone. Counseling plus medication provides additive benefits.

Treatment may include prescribing any combination of tobacco cessation products and counseling. Providers can prescribe one or more modalities of treatment.

Cessation counseling session refers to face-to-face patient contact of either:

- intermediate session (greater than 3 minutes up to 10 minutes); or
- intensive session (greater than 10 minutes).

(2) Documentation:

Ordering and rendering practitioners must maintain sufficient documentation to substantiate the medical necessity of the service and the services rendered, which may consist of documentation of tobacco use. The rendering practitioner must maintain documentation that face-to-face counseling was prescribed by a practitioner, even if the case is a referral to self, consistent with New Mexico Medicaid program policies and regulations.

(3) Limitations on the Number of Counseling Sessions:

A cessation counseling attempt includes up to 4 cessation counseling sessions (1 attempt = up to 4 sessions). Two cessation counseling attempts (or up to 8 cessation counseling sessions) are allowed in any 12 month period.

During a 12-month period, the practitioner and the beneficiary have flexibility to choose between intermediate or intensive counseling strategies for each session.

Please see section III of this supplement for information regarding the procedure and diagnosis codes to be used when billing for these services.

II. ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS AND PRACTITIONERS

A. Medical, dental, and behavioral health practitioners:

Cessation counseling services may be provided by one of the following 1) by or under the supervision of a physician; or 2) by any other Medicaid-enrolled health care professional authorized to provide other services in the Medicaid program who is also legally authorized to furnish such services under State law.

Generally this would include medical practitioners, including independently enrolled certified nurse practitioners; and behavioral health and dental practitioners. Physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners not enrolled as independent providers, registered nurses, and dental hygienists may bill for counseling services through the

enrolled entity under which their other services are billed, when under the supervision of a dentist or physician.

Counseling services must be prescribed by a licensed practitioner participating in the New Mexico Medicaid program. The services do not require prior authorization.

B. Pharmacy Providers:

The New Mexico Medicaid program reimburses pharmacy providers for face-to-face tobacco cessation sessions when a licensed practitioner prescribes them, which may be a qualified pharmacist when it is within the scope of the pharmacist’s practice under New Mexico law to prescribe such services.

For rendering services, qualified pharmacists are those who have attended at least one continuing education course on Tobacco Cessation in accordance with the federal public health guidelines found in the United States Department of Health and Human Services; Public Health Service’s *Quick Reference Guide for Clinicians; Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence*.

Tobacco cessation sessions may only be provided to recipients who agree to participate in tobacco cessation counseling.

The pharmacist may bill for tobacco cessation counseling sessions subject to the coverage limitations stated in section I, above, using the codes indicated below, billing on a CMS 1500 form, using the pharmacy NPI on the claim form.

III. PROCEDURE AND DIAGNOSIS CODES

Even brief counseling is effective for facilitating quit attempts. If a provider chooses to counsel recipients in their office, the New Mexico Medicaid program covers tobacco cessation counseling with the following procedure codes:

Procedure Code	Description
99406	Smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling visit; intermediate, greater than 3 minutes up to 10 minutes. Reimbursement is \$13.19
99407	Smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling visit; intermediate intensive, greater than 10 minutes. Reimbursement is \$25.83.

Diagnosis Codes:

Providers should indicate the following International Classification of Diseases (ICD) diagnostic codes when billing for cessation services:

Diagnosis Code	Description
305.1	Tobacco Use Disorder
V15.82	History of tobacco use
649.0	Tobacco use disorder complicating pregnancy, childbirth, or the puerperium

Cessation counseling sessions may be performed “incident to” the other services of the qualified practitioner. Providers who bill for E&M services on the same day as tobacco cessation services should use the appropriate HCPCS code in the 99201-99215 range AND modifier 25 to show that the E&M service is a separately identifiable service from a smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling service. If the cessation counseling services are provided in a group session, the time requirements of the face-to-face counseling for the eligible recipient still must be met.

IV. QUITLINE

Providers are encouraged to discuss tobacco cessation with eligible recipients.

Providers may refer any New Mexico Medicaid recipient to the Smoke Free New Mexico Quitline, at 1-800-QUIT-NOW, which offers education and coaching over the telephone, similar to the toll-free tobacco quit lines across the country. The services offered by the Quitline are provided in both Spanish and English and are provided free of charge to all New Mexico residents. The Quitline is designed so providers can easily refer clients to the program and is staffed by professionally trained tobacco cessation specialists.

Telephone counseling has proved effective in improving overall quit rates (a 15 percent quit rate when phone counseling is provided, versus a 10 percent quit rate with no telephone counseling). The quit rate further improves when phone counseling is combined with pharmacotherapy – a 28 percent quit rate for phone counseling plus medications versus a 23 percent rate with medication alone). (Source: Surgeon General’s Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence: 2008 Update, <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco/>.)

Online resources for tobacco users, healthcare providers, family/friends, and employers are available at <http://www.smokefree.gov>. Smokefree.gov provides free, accurate, evidence-based information and professional assistance to help support the immediate and long-term needs of people trying to quit tobacco.

If you have questions regarding the above information, you may contact the Medicaid Program Benefits Bureau at (505) 827-3171.

We appreciate your participation in the Medicaid program.