

MassHealth Tobacco Cessation Program Benefit

Fact Sheet for Providers

Overview of the New Benefit

- Effective July 1st, 2006, MassHealth members (Medicaid recipients in Massachusetts) have access to tobacco cessation medications and counseling support. Using a combination of behavioral counseling and pharmacotherapy has been shown to give smokers the greatest chance of success in quitting smoking.
- Since tobacco use is an addiction and stopping may require multiple attempts, the new benefit has been designed by MassHealth to allow members and providers as much flexibility as possible in accessing evidence-based counseling for tobacco cessation and all FDA-approved medications. The pharmacotherapy benefit covers standard-of-practice medications.

Medications and Counseling Covered

- **All FDA-approved medications, two 90-day treatment regimens per year.** The pharmacotherapy benefit allows a 90-day supply of medication for Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) per cessation attempt (patch, gum, lozenge), with a maximum of two 90-day treatment regimens per year. Higher amounts of medications are available with prior authorization from MassHealth.
- The pharmacotherapy benefit also covers other medically necessary drugs for tobacco cessation such as bupropion (the generic form of Zyban) and the recently FDA-approved medication Chantix (generic drug name varenicline). These medications are covered for a maximum of two 90-day treatment regimens per year (roughly two 12-week courses of treatment, for a total of 24 weeks of coverage). Higher amounts of medications are available with prior authorization from MassHealth.
- **Up to 16 face-to-face counseling sessions per 12-month cycle.** Members may receive up to 16 face-to-face counseling sessions per year. These 16 sessions can include any combination of two 45-minute intake/assessment sessions per year and 14 sessions of either individual or group counseling. More counseling may be available with prior authorization from MassHealth.

Other Counseling Options

- Since face-to-face counseling may not be available immediately or in all locations, and to accommodate patient preferences, MassHealth providers may also assist members in quitting by:
 - ◆ enrolling patients in the free telephone-based **QuitWorks** program, offered by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and all major health plans. Download an enrollment form from www.quitworks.org.
 - ◆ referring patients to the **Massachusetts Quitline** at **1-800-Try-To-STOP (800-879-8678)** and in Spanish at **1-800-8-DÉJALO (800-833-5256)**.

For More Information

- Detailed information about the benefit and counseling payment rates are contained in the frequently asked questions (see next page) and in various MassHealth provider transmittal letters issued since June 2006. These transmittal letters are available on the MassHealth website at www.mass.gov/mashealthpubs. Click on Provider Library and then on Transmittal Letters.
- For more information about the pharmacotherapy benefit for tobacco cessation, see the MassHealth Drug List at www.mass.gov/druglist.
- For more information about the overall tobacco cessation benefit, call MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900 or e-mail providersupport@mahealth.net.



Make smoking history.