




MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA • DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

ISSUE DATE January 4, 2007	EFFECTIVE DATE January 4, 2007	NUMBER 99-07-02
SUBJECT Policy Reinforcement Regarding Billing for Tobacco Cessation Counseling Services		BY  James L. Hardy, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to reinforce the Department of Public Welfare's (Department) coverage and payment policy regarding Tobacco Cessation Counseling (TCC) services.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all providers who render services to Medical Assistance (MA) recipients in the fee-for-service delivery system. Providers rendering services under the managed care delivery system should address any coding or rate-related questions to the appropriate managed care organization.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The Office of Medical Assistance Programs' (OMAP) data suggests there is currently a low utilization of TCC services. Through outreach, the Department has determined that there is a lack of understanding about the Department's policy regarding billing for TCC services, reimbursement for TCC services, and the Department of Health's (DOH) TCC credentialing process. Therefore, the OMAP is reminding providers of the availability of TCC services and the policies and procedures to be followed in order to provide and bill for TCC services.

PROCEDURE:

Enrollment

A licensed health care provider, i.e., a physician, dentist, psychologist, Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner, or a health related entity such as an independent medical/surgical clinic, general hospital, rehabilitation hospital, pharmacy, home health agency, rural health clinic/federally qualified health center, outpatient drug & alcohol facility,

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap

outpatient psychiatric clinic, or family planning clinic are permitted to bill for TCC services, as long as they are (1) approved by the DOH as a Tobacco Cessation Program (TCP) and (2) enrolled in the MA Program to provide TCC services.

In order for a provider or health care entity to be pre-approved by the DOH, the provider or the entity must meet the DOH standards for the TCP and complete the Pennsylvania DOH Pre-Approved Tobacco Cessation Registry Application. Providers are reminded that a separate DOH Pennsylvania Pre-Approved Tobacco Cessation Registry Application must be completed for each county in which the TCP operates.

The Pennsylvania Pre-Approved Tobacco Cessation Registry Application request form can be found on the following DOH website link:

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/lib/health/tobacco/CessationProviderApplication.pdf>.

In order to bill the MA fee-for-service delivery system, health care providers or health care related entities with an expertise in tobacco cessation, pre-approved by the DOH as a TCP, must enroll in the MA Program as either an existing provider type, if appropriate, or as a provider type (PT) 37, tobacco cessation provider. If a provider enrolls under an existing PT, the provider has to include the PROMISE™ Tobacco Cessation (TC) Specialty 370 with the DOH certification letter for inclusion in the provider's enrollment file.

MA Providers please note: On the bottom of the first page of the "DOH Pennsylvania Pre-approved Tobacco Cessation Registry Application" is the following text box:

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION:

If your program is approved, would you like information on your program submitted to the Department of Public Welfare to qualify your program/ services to enable you to receive reimbursement for cessation services provided to Medical Assistance clients?

Yes No

If the MA Provider checks the "Yes" box, DOH will **automatically send** your program information to the OMAP. When the OMAP receives the DOH pre-approval letter, the OMAP will send written notification to the provider that the provider may bill for TCC services and that the OMAP will update the provider file with the 370 TC specialty code. This only occurs when the provider is already an enrolled MA Program provider. If not enrolled in the MA Program, the provider will need to enroll by completing and submitting an MA Program Provider Application which can be obtained on the OMAP website at <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap/promise/enroll/omappromiseenroll.asp>.

If the MA provider fails to check the "Yes" box on the DOH Pennsylvania Pre-Approved Tobacco Cessation Registry Application, the MA provider is responsible to see that OMAP receives a copy of the DOH pre-approval letter, which is to be placed in the MA provider's enrollment file. If OMAP does not receive a copy of the DOH pre-approval letter from either the DOH or the MA provider, the MA provider will be unable to bill the MA fee-for-service delivery system.

Billing

The chart below identifies the parameters for billing Tobacco Cessation Counseling Services that were added to the MA Program Fee Schedule.

Provider Type	Speciality	Procedure Code	Description	Unit of Service	Unit of Service	Limit
01, 05, 08, 09, 19, 24, 27, 31, 37	370	S9075	Tobacco Counseling Session	1	15 minute face to face encounter	Maximum of 70 units per individual, per calendar year

Providers must provide a full 15-minute counseling session in order to submit a claim for one unit of service. Providers are not permitted to round the unit of service to the next higher unit when providing a partial unit of time or combine partial time units to equal a full unit of service. See MA Bulletin 99-97-06 titled “Accurate Billing for Units of Service Based on Periods of Time,” issued and effective September 17, 1997 at <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap/provinf/mabull/999706.asp>

The policy changes announced in MA Bulletin 99-04-11, titled “Coverage of Tobacco Cessation Drug Products and Counseling Services” issued and effective September 15, 2004, remain in effect, see <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/General/Bulletins/003673169.aspx?BulletinDetailId=1115>. The policy changes listed in the bulletin were as follows: 1) Removed the limitation related to one drug therapy regimen per recipient per calendar year; 2) Increased the limitation of tobacco cessation counseling to seven counseling regimens per recipient per calendar year; and 3) Allowed a TC provider to bill a medical or office visit and a tobacco cessation counseling session for the same recipient on the same date of service.

MA Providers enrolled in the Healthy Beginnings Plus (HBP) Program may continue to provide, bill and receive payment for smoking cessation counseling services provided to their prenatal care recipients in accordance with HBP requirements. HBP providers may not bill for tobacco cessation counseling in lieu of, or in conjunction with, HBP smoking cessation counseling.

Additional note: Under the Department’s HealthChoices managed care delivery system, TCP providers are to enroll in the respective Physical Health (PH) or the Behavioral Health (BH) managed care organization (MCO) for payment for TCC services. Both the PH-MCO and Behavioral Health Primary Contractor/BH-MCO have the responsibility to ensure access to TCC services. The PH-MCO has the additional responsibility for ensuring access to tobacco cessation drugs. Both the PH-MCO and Behavioral Health Primary Contractor/BH-MCO are to ensure that its TCP provider network is sufficient to meet the needs of the MCO’s members.