Tobacco Cessation Products & Counseling Available in Montana

Medicaid Coverage

Services

All Montana Medicaid clients have access to tobacco cessation counseling and products. No Passport Referral (primary care provider referral) is needed to see a tobacco cessation counselor or get a prescription for cessation medications. Prior authorization by providers is needed for all tobacco cessation products; however, prior authorization is not needed for counseling benefits.

Reimbursement for Tobacco Cessation Counseling

Qualified tobacco cessation counselors are physicians and mid-level practitioners at private practices, Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Clinics, public health clinics, tribal health clinics, Indian Health Service facilities, and outpatient hospitals.

In January 2012, Montana Medicaid has expanded the range of health care provider types who are eligible to provide tobacco cessation counseling to Medicaid recipients. The following licensed professionals may now be reimbursed by Medicaid for tobacco cessation services: Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Psychologists, Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors, and Chemical Dependency Counselors (Licensed Addiction Counselors).

Dental providers use the following code to bill Montana Medicaid for smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling, with a twice/yearly limit (no limit for patients under 21) on the number of sessions that can be provided:

- D1320: Tobacco Counseling for the control and prevention of oral disease.

Non-dental providers can use the following codes to bill Montana Medicaid for smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling and there is no limit to the number of sessions that can be provided:

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99406: For “Intermediate” counseling sessions (lasting more than 3 minutes and less than 10 minutes).

99407: For “Intensive” counseling sessions (lasting more than 10 minutes).

**Medicare Coverage**
Smoking Counseling/Cessation treatment is covered by the Medicare Part B benefit.

**Cessation Counseling**
Any person who uses tobacco can get counseling from a qualified doctor or other Medicare-recognized practitioner who can help them stop using tobacco. Medicare covers these counseling sessions as a preventive service even without a diagnosis of an illness caused by tobacco use. Medicare will cover up to 8 face-to-face visits during a 12-month period. These visits must be provided by a qualified doctor or other Medicare-recognized practitioner.

**Cessation Medications**
Medicare Part D benefits (drug plans) cover some tobacco cessation treatment. There are 28 drug plans with variable combinations of drug coverage; many of these include Chantix or Bupropion on their approved list. However, they are usually designated as an upper-tier ‘specialty’ drug, meaning they are expensive and coverage is limited and variable. Furthermore, most or all of the plans are time-bound and will limit the number of yearly and lifetime quitting attempts. Since Medicare Plan D has yearly enrollment, interested members should talk to a representative and see if they can choose a plan that will support using tobacco cessation medication in a way that suits their needs.

Because Nicotine Replacement Therapy is over-the-counter, Medicare Plan D will not cover it.

**Private Insurance Coverage**
Varies with policy coverage. State employees should check their policy to see if they are eligible for a one-time cessation benefit.

**Cost of Over-the-Counter Products**

Ridgeway Pharmacy
http://www.ridgewayrx.com
1-800-630-3214

*The prescription cessation medication provider for the Montana Quit Line.*

Prices of both Nicotine Replacement Therapy products (Nicotine patches, gum, and lozenges) and prescription medications (Chantix and Bupropion SR) vary greatly depending on the store or pharmacy where they are purchased.

**Cessation Products Available**
Medicaid pays for two tobacco cessations trials a year of either generic Zyban (bupropion), Chantix, or nicotine patches.

- Length and spacing of trials:
  - Six-month trials allowed for Chantix; prior authorization for 3 months initially, with an option for 3 more months upon verifying that the patient has quit using tobacco. If the patient has successfully quit for 6 months they would only be authorized for a second 6-month trial if they resumed using tobacco. If patient does not quit in the initial 3 months, then a one month minimum break is required before authorizing a second 6-month trial. The second 6-month trial is only approved after the patient has been off of Chantix for one month. For the second 6-month trial, Chantix is once again prior authorized for 3 months initially, with an option for 3 more months upon verifying that the patient has quit using tobacco.
  - Four-month trials are allowed for nicotine patches and Zyban, including concomitant therapy. There is no immediate re-authorization, i.e., one month minimum waiting period in effect.

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Montana's tobacco use prevention community addresses the public health crisis caused by the use of all forms of commercial tobacco products and works to eliminate tobacco use, especially among young people, via programs and policies throughout Montana.

An informal survey of prices at several “big box” stores and Montana pharmacies was conducted in June 2012. This information is meant to provide a general estimate and range of prices; it is not intended to promote any vendor or product. Individuals may find these medications at a lower or higher price in their local stores.

**Nicotine patches:** Available in 7 mg, 14 mg and 21 mg. Priced vary by quantity and dosage. Generic store brands ranged from $26 to $38 for a two week supply. Brand Name products ranged from $40 to $55 for a two week supply.

**Nicotine gum:** Available in 2 mg and 4 mg. The quantity of pieces of gum in a box varied from 72 to 160 pieces. Generic store brands ranged from $26 to $43 for a box of approximately 100. Brand Name products ranged from $40 to $52 for a box of approximately 100.

**Nicotine lozenges:** Available in 2 mg and 4 mg. The quantity of pieces of lozenges in a box varied from 72 to 108 pieces. Generic store brands ranged from $34 to $53 for a box of approximately 100 lozenges. Brand Name products ranged from $43 to $56 for a box of approximately 100.

**Chantix (varenicline):** A prescription is required for this medications and it may be covered by some insurance plans. A one month supply ranged from $177 to $190. There is no generic version available for Chantix at this time.

**Buproprion SR:** A prescription is required for this medications and it may be covered by some insurance plans. Buproprion SR is the generic version of Wellbutrin and Zyban. A one month supply (60 tablets) ranged from $30 to $82.

- Patients may switch treatment products for their second trial after the one month wait.
- All tobacco cessation products are paid for on a monthly basis. Medicaid would not continue to provide cessation products if a patient’s eligibility ran out.
- Nicotine gum is only authorized when clients cannot use patches, due for example, to an allergy or intolerance to the patch adhesive.
- Inhalers are rarely authorized and would require a compelling reason.
- Dual eligibles, patients who have both Medicaid and Medicare, are not covered for Chantix or Zyban, as these products are covered under Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage.
- Dual eligibles are covered for nicotine patches, since they are an over-the-counter product that is not covered by Medicare Part D. Inhalers and gum are rarely covered.

Cost share for tobacco cessation products is 5% of the Medicaid allowed reimbursement, with a minimum of $1 and a maximum of $5 per prescription. The maximum cost sharing payment per patient shall not exceed $25 per month.