

State of Vermont

Agency of Human Services

Department of Vermont Health Access

NOB 1 South, 280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671-1010

July 13, 2021

****Pharmacist-Provided Tobacco Cessation services****

Effective July 1, 2021, the Vermont Medicaid program allows reimbursement for pharmacists providing tobacco cessation counseling. This change is being made to support the provisions of Act 178 of the 2020 legislative session, which authorizes pharmacists to prescribe tobacco cessation products. Pharmacists will be paid according to the Resource-Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS) fee schedule. Tobacco Cessation CPT codes 99406 and 99407 will be open for pharmacists to bill with no PA required. Coverage will continue to be limited to 16 visits per year for Medicaid members, which can be exceeded with prior authorization. This expansion to cover tobacco cessation counseling services provided by pharmacists is expected to increase utilization of this benefit and improve the quit rate among Vermont Medicaid members.

The law requires prescriptions for smoking cessation products be written in accordance with a protocol approved by the Commissioner of Health after consultation with the Director of Professional Regulation and the Board of Pharmacy. Once a protocol is approved and posted on the Vermont Board of Pharmacy website, prescriptions written by pharmacists for smoking cessation products will be covered as specified on our [Preferred Drug List](#). As a reminder, pharmacists must enroll with Vermont Medicaid as providers to prescribe smoking cessation products and to be reimbursed for counseling Medicaid members. <https://vermont.hppcloud.com/Home/Index/>.

802 Quits:

Please refer to 802quits.org/pharmacists to find tobacco treatment resources specifically for pharmacists and pharmacy staff. This online resource contains:

- tobacco treatment guidelines for pharmacists.
- tips and talking points for patients at different stages of quitting.
- descriptions of free 802Quits programs (phone, online, text) and gift card rewards.
- free 802Quits tools and patient materials for your practice.

Reimbursement/Billing:

All billing for providers who provide tobacco cessation counseling must bill through a medical claim. More information can be found in the [General Billing and Forms Manual](#), and any billing questions can be directed to Gainwell Provider Services at 800-925-1706.

For questions regarding tobacco cessation services provided by pharmacists, please contact the DVHA Pharmacy Staff at dvhaph@vermont.gov. Thank you for your continued support of Vermont's publicly-funded pharmacy programs.

Nancy J. Hogue, Pharm.D.

Director of Pharmacy Services