Medicaid Tobacco Cessation Benefits

Who is eligible for Tobacco Cessation benefits?

- All clients in fee-for-service Medicaid are eligible for two 90-day treatment sessions each year. The 90 day sessions can be split up into multiple shorter segments.

What medications are covered by Medicaid?

- Colorado Medicaid covers: NRT Gum, NRT Patch, NRT Nasal Spray, NRT Inhaler, NRT Lozenge, Varenicline (Chantix), and Bupropion (Zyban).

What are the co-pays for the medications?

- Co-pays are $0 for pregnant women, clients under 18 years old and nursing home clients; $1 for generic medications and $3 for brand name medications for all other clients.

Will Medicaid cover a combination of tobacco cessation medications?

- Yes, but only one product will be covered at a time.

How do members access medications for tobacco cessation?

- Clients must receive a prescription from their physician and a prior authorization from the Department. Prior authorization approval requires the client to participate in a tobacco cessation counseling program.

Where can providers refer Medicaid clients for tobacco cessation counseling services?

- In addition to a qualified physician, clients can access the Colorado QuitLine at 1-800-Quit-Now or 1-800-784-8669.

Can tobacco cessation counseling be offered and billed on the same day that a client goes to the doctor for other procedures, office visit, or appointments?

- Yes, however, the provider must be an enrolled qualified substance abuse treatment provider with the Department.

What counseling services are covered?

- **Individual and Family Therapy –** Therapeutic substance abuse counseling and treatment services with one client per session. Family therapy must be directly related to the client's treatment for substance abuse and/or dependence. Individual/family therapy is limited to 25 sessions at 15 minutes per visit, up to one hour per session per year.
- **Group Therapy –** Therapeutic substance abuse counseling and treatment services with more than one client of up to and including three hours per session. Group therapy is limited to 36 sessions per year.
- **Alcohol/Drug Screening –** The collection of urine to test for the presence of alcohol and/or drugs. Substance abuse counseling services are provided along with screening to discuss results with client. Alcohol/ drug screening is limited to 36 specimen collections per year.
- **Targeted Case Management –** Medically necessary coordination and planning services provided with or on behalf of a client with a substance abuse diagnosis. Services may include service planning, advocacy and linkage to other medical services related to substance abuse diagnosis, monitoring and care coordination. Substance abuse case management services are limited to 36 contacts per State fiscal year.

CONTACTS: Customer Service: 303-866-3513 (in metro area)
1-800-221-3493 (toll free)
Media: Joanne C. Lindsay – 303-866-3144

Improving access to cost-effective, quality health care services for Coloradans
colorado.gov/hcpf

September 2009