



Chapter 8

Section 19.1

Smoking Cessation Counseling

Issue Date: November 13, 2009

Authority: Public Law 110-417, Section 713

1.0 CPT¹ PROCEDURE CODES

96152, 96153, 99406, 99407

2.0 BACKGROUND

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 (Public Law 110-417, Section 713) signed into effect on October 14, 2008, authorized provision of smoking cessation counseling under TRICARE.

3.0 POLICY

Coverage may be extended for smoking cessation counseling in accordance with paragraph 4.0.

4.0 POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Smoking cessation counseling is covered for all TRICARE beneficiaries who are not eligible for Medicare and reside in one of the 50 United States or the District of Columbia, and only when the smoking cessation counseling is delivered in one of the 50 United States or the District of Columbia.

4.2 There is no requirement for the beneficiary to be diagnosed with a smoking related illness to receive smoking cessation counseling.

4.3 Smoking cessation counseling must be rendered by a TRICARE-recognized and TRICARE-authorized provider working within the scope of their licensure or certification to be cost-shared. Please reference 32 CFR 199.6 for provider types recognized and eligible for authorization under TRICARE.

4.4 CPT¹ procedure codes 96152 (health and behavior intervention, each 15 minutes, face-to-face; individual), 96153 (health and behavior intervention, each 15 minutes, face-to-face; group), 99406 (smoking cessation counseling visit; intermediate, greater than three minutes up to 10 minutes), and 99407 (smoking cessation counseling visit; intensive, greater than 10 minutes) are the only procedures codes covered under this policy.

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4.5 In addition to the above policy considerations, the following limits and specific coverage criteria apply:

4.5.1 Two quit attempts in a consecutive 12 month period are covered; a third quit attempt may be covered with physician justification and preauthorization. A quit attempt with the initial smoking cessation counseling session (may be individual or group) and ends 120 consecutive days later or with the 18th session rendered within that 120 day period, whichever occurs first.

4.5.2 Up to a total of 18 smoking cessation counseling sessions (combination of individual and group) may be allowed per quit attempt; however, only four sessions per quit attempt may be individual sessions (CPT² procedure codes 96152, 99406, and 99407). The remaining 14 sessions allowed per quit attempt must be group sessions (CPT² procedure code 96153).

5.0 EXCLUSIONS

5.1 Smoking cessation counseling rendered by a provider type NOT recognized under TRICARE or by a provider that is not TRICARE-authorized.

5.2 Smoking cessation counseling rendered to a beneficiary who resides outside one of the 50 United States or the District of Columbia or smoking cessation counseling delivered outside one of the 50 United States or the District of Columbia.

5.3 TRICARE beneficiaries who are also Medicare eligible (dual-eligible beneficiaries) are excluded from coverage under this policy.

6.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

October 14, 2008.

- END -

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