

Clinical Compliance Brief



What you need to know

August 2010

From the Desk of the Compliance and Privacy Officer:

Fresh off the presses! The Department of Health and Human Services announces expanded coverage of Tobacco Cessation Counseling for Medicare beneficiaries. Read on.

News Front

Under this new coverage, any smoker covered by Medicare will be able to receive tobacco cessation counseling from a qualified physician or other Medicare-recognized practitioner who can work with beneficiaries to help them stop smoking. All Medicare beneficiaries will continue to have access to smoking cessation prescription medication through Medicare Part D program.

The new benefit will cover two individual tobacco cessation counseling attempts per year. Each attempt includes up to four sessions, with a total annual benefit covering up to eight sessions per Medicare patient who uses tobacco. This will be effective January 1, 2011.

HHS plans to issue guidance in the coming months about a new benefit for pregnant women to receive Medicaid covered tobacco cessation counseling. This new benefit requires states to make coverage available to pregnant Medicaid beneficiaries by October 1, 2010.

For more information, questions or to suggest items for inclusion, please contact:



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