



Connecticut Medical Assistance Program
Policy Transmittal 2014-28

Provider Bulletin 2014-74
October 2014

Roderick L. Bremby, Commissioner

Effective Date: October 1, 2014
Contact: William Halsey @ 860-424-5077

TO: Acute Care Hospitals, Private Psychiatric Hospitals and State Operated Psychiatric Hospitals

RE: Tobacco Cessation Group Counseling at Hospital Outpatient Settings

The purpose of this policy transmittal is to inform acute care and psychiatric hospital outpatient providers that the Department is introducing a new service for tobacco cessation group counseling.

Effective October 1, 2014, the Department will pay for tobacco cessation group counseling provided by these hospitals for outpatients.

Tobacco Cessation Group Counseling Description

Group counseling services provide basic knowledge about quitting smoking and present tobacco treatment from a social learning perspective. Lifestyle changes that support quitting tobacco and a generally healthy lifestyle are discussed. The group facilitator tailors strategies of the group counseling session to the unique needs of the individual tobacco user and discusses harm reduction as a treatment strategy.

The minimum number of individuals needed to comprise a group is three; the maximum number of individuals in any tobacco cessation group regardless of payer is 12, not including the facilitator. Tobacco cessation group counseling services can be reimbursed for the same day as other modalities of routine outpatient hospital services.

Tobacco Cessation Group Counseling Models

The following models represent those tobacco cessation models that have evidence of effectiveness. Providers may only bill for group counseling using the evidence-based tobacco cessation models below or those endorsed by the American Cancer Society or the American Lung Association. Models currently endorsed by the Department include:

- Learning About Healthy Living
- Freedom From Smoking
- Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence
- Rx for Change
- Not-On-Tobacco
- Freshstart

Group Counseling Facilitators

Individuals must have the appropriate training and qualifications in order to facilitate tobacco cessation

group counseling. There must be documentation maintained by the facility that the group facilitator is trained in the specific model used by the provider. Supervision of staff and progress notes written by the group facilitator must comply with facility licensure requirements and state regulations.

Coding

Hospitals must use both Revenue Center Code (RCC) 953 and Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code 99412 on their claims for tobacco cessation counseling groups.

Revenue Center Code 953 will be added to each hospital's provider file. Hospitals do not need to submit the Revenue Center (RCC) Request Form for Hospitals, W-1504. RCC 953 can only be used for tobacco cessation group counseling.

CPT code 99412 is defined as: "Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to individuals in a group setting; approximately 60 minutes".

Billing for a tobacco cessation group counseling session is only allowed when the duration of the session was 45 minutes or longer and the individual attended the session for the entire duration of the session.

The primary diagnosis code on claims for tobacco cessation group counseling sessions must be either of the following ICD-9 codes:

- 305.1 - Tobacco Use Disorder
- 292.0 – Tobacco Withdrawal

Authorization

Tobacco cessation group counseling is considered a behavioral health outpatient service. Consequently, it requires authorization from the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership. RCC 953 is being added to the list of routine hospital outpatient codes. For individuals who are already in treatment and have received authorization for hospital outpatient treatment, no additional authorization request is required.

Maximum Number of Units

For claims and authorization purposes, one unit of service is equivalent to one group counseling session. The maximum number of tobacco cessation group counseling units per person per 365 days is twenty-four (24).

Reimbursement

The rate for one unit of tobacco cessation group counseling is \$30 per person.

Documentation

All services must be documented accurately in the medical record. The plan of care must include an order for tobacco cessation services. The progress note for each group participant must include the date of the group, the duration of the group, the time the beneficiary was in attendance at the group, and the group facilitator's name and credentials.

Billing Questions

For billing questions, please contact the HP Provider Assistance Center, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 1-800-842-8440.

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Responsible Unit: DSS, Division of Health Services, Behavioral Health Unit, William Halsey at (860) 424-5077.

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