

# Billing for Tobacco Cessation Counseling in North Carolina

## Local Health Departments

### HOW ARE TOBACCO PRODUCTS DEFINED?

Tobacco products are defined as combustible products (e.g., cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, pipes, hookah), smokeless tobacco products (e.g., chew, spit, Snus) and electronic nicotine delivery systems (e.g., e-cigarettes, e-hookah).

### WHO SHOULD RECEIVE TOBACCO CESSATION SCREENING AND COUNSELING?

Tobacco use screening and counseling should be provided to all adults; to all children and youth; and to parents, family members or caregivers of children and youth present at the visit.

### WHO SHOULD PROVIDE TOBACCO CESSATION SCREENING AND COUNSELING?

Counseling for tobacco use should be provided by all qualified staff regardless of their ability to bill for the service. Clinical Practice Guidelines deem that *every patient at every visit* should have tobacco use status assessed and appropriate referral made for those willing to quit and a brief motivational intervention for those not ready to quit.

### WHEN CAN A PROVIDER BILL FOR TOBACCO CESSATION SCREENING AND COUNSELING?

A provider may bill for screening and counseling provided to adults, children, and youth who are patients of the local health department with the exceptions cited below in the Billing Issues section.

### WHICH PROVIDERS CAN BILL FOR TOBACCO CESSATION SCREENING AND COUNSELING?

Local health departments can bill for these services when provided by an RN who has demonstrated competence in the tobacco cessation program **in use in their agency**. These services are being provided under the supervision of the MD, NP or PA.

<http://ncpublichealthnursing.org/pubs/PHNManualDevelopingStandingOrders-4-4-17pll.pdf>

Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, and Behavioral Health Professionals enrolled under their own NPI number may also bill for tobacco cessation counseling.

### TRAINING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTERED NURSE EDUCATION THAT MUST BE IN PLACE FOR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS BILLING OF TOBACCO CESSATION

In order for LHDs to bill for tobacco cessation screening and counseling provided by RNs the RN must meet the following requirements:

1. **Complete a qualified 5As tobacco cessation training program.** A list of training options is available at the Division of Public Health website at <https://www.quitlinenc.com/health-professionals/practice-resources/tobacco-treatment-training.html>.
2. **Provide a Certificate of Training Completion** to their agency. The agency is responsible for maintaining this list for audit purposes.

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3. **Operate Under Standing Orders** – Each local health department must develop Standing Orders. A sample template for Tobacco Cessation Counseling Standing Orders is available at <https://www.quitlinenc.com/health-professionals/lhd.html>.

### DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCY IN TOBACCO CESSATION SCREENING AND COUNSELING

All staff providing tobacco cessation screening and counseling should undergo training based upon Clinical Practice Guidelines, *Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence 2008 Update*.

### DOCUMENTATION OF TOBACCO CESSATION SCREENING AND COUNSELING

Documentation of tobacco use screening and counseling must include use of 5A's counseling, type and amount of tobacco used, the outcome of counseling session (plan of action including referral and follow-up), and length of service provided.

Sample Documentation Forms (these are not required but may provide guidance for documentation)

1. Prenatal and Postpartum - <https://youquittwoquit.org>
2. Electronic Health Record - [http://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/patient\\_care/tobacco/ehr-tobacco-cessation.pdf](http://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/patient_care/tobacco/ehr-tobacco-cessation.pdf)

### CPT CODES USED FOR TOBACCO CESSATION COUNSELING

#### **CPT Codes – Medicaid; Medicare**

99406 – Intermediate visit (3-10 minutes) (\$11.93)

99407 – Intensive visit (> 10 minutes) (\$23.05)

#### **Short Descriptors**

99406– Tobacco use and counsel 3-10 min.

99407– Tobacco use and counsel > 10 min.

### BILLING ISSUES IN LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS FOR ALL PROVIDERS

1. Family Planning Medicaid does **NOT** reimburse for tobacco cessation activities. However, patients who use tobacco should be provided counseling and referred to QuitlineNC for assistance.
2. Prenatal Clinic Visit – The LHD may bill for a prenatal clinic visit *and* for tobacco cessation counseling (when provided by qualified staff) on the same day.
3. Child Health Preventive Visit – The LHD may bill for a prenatal clinic visit and for tobacco cessation counseling (when provided by qualified staff) on the same day for the teen or adolescent.
4. Tobacco cessation counseling cannot be billed in addition to a postnatal home assessment, skilled nurse visit, newborn home visit, OB Care Manager visit (OBCM), or Care Coordination for Children (CC4C) visit. However, patients who use tobacco should be provided counseling and referred to QuitlineNC for assistance.

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5. Medicaid does not reimburse for counseling for tobacco cessation in the home setting by any type of provider.
6. Counseling provided to parents, family members and caregivers who are not enrolled in Medicaid is not billable but should be documented in the child's chart as secondhand smoke exposure prevention.

### TOBACCO CESSATION REFERRAL RESOURCES

**QuitlineNC** – There are three ways to enroll:

- **Fax Referral** – [www.quitlinenc.com](http://www.quitlinenc.com).
- **Call** 1-800.QUIT.NOW (1-800-784-8669); Spanish language portal: 1-855-DEJELO-YA (1-855-335-3569)
- **Web Enroll** at [www.quitlinenc.com](http://www.quitlinenc.com).

**Web Coach** – [www.QuitlineNC.com](http://www.QuitlineNC.com)

**SmokeFree.gov** – [www.smokefree.gov](http://www.smokefree.gov)

**You Quit Two Quit** – (Pregnancy and Post-partum)

<https://youquittwoquit.org>

**Become An Ex** – [www.becomeanex.org](http://www.becomeanex.org)

**BeTobaccoFree.Gov** – [www.betobaccofree.gov](http://www.betobaccofree.gov)

**Freedom From Smoking** On-line–

[www.ffsonline.org](http://www.ffsonline.org)

**The Real Cost (Youth/Teens):**

<http://therealcost.betobaccofree.hhs.gov/>

**My Last Dip** – [www.mylastdip.com](http://www.mylastdip.com)

**Quit Tobacco – Make Everyone Proud** –

[www.ucanquit2.org](http://www.ucanquit2.org) (Military/Veterans)

**Tobacco Resources for People Living With**

**HIV/AIDS** – [www.positivelysmokefreeme.com](http://www.positivelysmokefreeme.com)

There may be other counseling resources available in your community (e.g., QuitSmart, FreshStart, Freedom from Smoking, NC 211).