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LME-MCO Communication Bulletin #J148

Date: July 21, 2015

To: LME-MCOs

From: Kathy Nichols, Lead Waiver Program Manager, Behavioral Health Section, DMA and Mabel McGlothlen, LME System Performance Team Leader, DMH/DD/SAS

Subject: Tobacco Use Disorder

The purpose of this bulletin is to offer resources for tobacco cessation and to clarify that tobacco cessation programs are covered by LME-MCOs and can be billed by physicians and physician extenders. Physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants can use codes 99406 and 99407 for this purpose.

Tobacco use rates are high among mental health and substance use clients. Research shows treating tobacco addiction while addressing behavioral health and substance use is most effective, and many of these clients prefer to get tobacco cessation counseling and treatment from these trusted providers who are skilled in behavioral health and addiction treatment. There should be no wrong door for tobacco users who want to quit, and examples of resources for assistance with smoking cessation are medical offices, crisis centers and enhanced behavioral health services such as Assertive Community Treatment Teams.

North Carolina Medicaid covers a variety of products for smoking cessation. Tobacco cessation products are listed on the Preferred Drug List. Most rebatable generic drugs that offer rebates and the preferred drugs are covered without a prior approval. Non-preferred drugs are covered after the beneficiary has tried and failed on two of the preferred drugs or if the provider presents clinical information why the beneficiary cannot use the preferred drugs. Coverage is as follows:

Preferred	Non-preferred
bupropion SR (generic for Zyban®)	Nicoderm CQ Patch®
Chantix® Quantity limits of a 6 months supply per 12 months apply to Chantix	Nicotrol®
Nicorette®	Zyban®
nicotine gum	
nicotine lozenge	
nicotine patch	

Additional resources from Division of Public Health, Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch include:

- QuitlineNC at 1-800-QuitNow or www.QuitlineNC.com
 - 24/7 assistance for all NC tobacco users who want to quit
 - Telephone coaching integrated with web-based coaching and texting
 - Coaching available in English or Spanish; translation for other languages
 - 10-call program for pregnant women
 - Fax referral forms available for clinicians to refer their clients for QuitlineNC services
- Training and technical assistance on integrating tobacco dependence treatment, systems changes, billing and referrals to QuitlineNC;
- Assistance in communicating messages about tobacco cessation to tobacco users who want to quit;
- Assistance with policy planning and implementation to make behavioral health and substance use treatment facilities smoke-free/tobacco free.

If you have questions, please contact the DMA Behavioral Health Section and ask for Wendy Korb at 919-855-4290.

Previous bulletins can be accessed at: <http://jtcommunicationbulletins.ncdhhs.gov/>

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