



TOBACCO CESSATION THERAPY: DENTAL COVERAGE AND LIMITATIONS

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Alaska Medicaid covers tobacco cessation services (CDT code D1320 – tobacco counseling for the control and prevention of oral disease) for recipients who use tobacco and want to quit. Tobacco cessation counseling for recipients over age 18 is an enhanced adult dental service and requires service authorization.

Dentists may provide tobacco cessation counseling to a recipient known to use tobacco, regardless of whether the recipient has signs or symptoms of tobacco-related disease. The dentist must provide face-to-face, practical counseling to a recipient for at least three minutes in order to be reimbursed for the counseling.

Practical counseling must be in accordance with the *Quick Reference Guide for Clinicians: Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence* (<http://www.ahrq.gov/legal/clinic/tobacco/taqrq.pdf>) by the US Department of Health and Human Services.

The dentist must maintain documentation in the patient's record of the counseling services. Documentation of the counseling must include sufficient recipient information to adequately demonstrate that medical necessity was met. Additionally, for each date of service the dentist must document details of the counseling including, but not limited to:

- Recipient name
- Recipient date of birth
- History of tobacco use
- Time spent counseling the recipient
- Advising the recipient to quit
- Assessing recipient's readiness to quit

Alaska Medicaid does not cover tobacco cessation counseling when:

- Ø Provided as a preventive measure for recipients who do not use tobacco
- Ø Recipients with no known history of tobacco use
- Ø The duration of counseling is less than three minutes

Tobacco cessation counseling is limited to one session per dental visit, and two (2) sessions per calendar year.

The dentist may also order counseling to be provided by a pharmacist when a prescription for tobacco cessation medication is dispensed to the recipient. Recipients who wish to quit may receive drug therapy to aid their progress. Alaska Medicaid covers both nicotine replacement therapy and Chantix®.

Providers may also refer recipients to the free Alaska Quit Line at 888.842.7848.

Alaska Medicaid may request medical records for determination of medical necessity in instances where tobacco cessation services are reported.