



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
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MassHealth
Community Health Center Bulletin 59
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TO: Community Health Centers Participating in MassHealth
FROM: Beth Waldman, Medicaid Director *BW*
RE: Correction for MassHealth Tobacco Cessation Counseling Benefit Chart

Background

In June 2006, MassHealth published Transmittal Letter CHC-74 about the new tobacco-cessation benefit, effective July 1, 2006. Attachment 1 of Transmittal Letter CHC-74 contained a chart titled "MassHealth Tobacco Cessation Counseling Benefit" that conflicted with the information in the regulations about the allowable size of a group-counseling visit. The correct range is a minimum of three participants and a maximum of 12. The revised chart reflects the correct range. Please update your staff as needed.

Questions

If you have any questions about the information in the bulletin, please contact MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900, e-mail your inquiry to providersupport@mahealth.net, or fax your inquiry to 617-988-8974.

MassHealth Tobacco Cessation Counseling Benefit

MassHealth strongly encourages providers to inquire about all members' smoking status and recommend that they try to quit by referring them to the best available resource for tobacco cessation counseling. Clinical evidence indicates that the best treatment outcomes are achieved when members receive a combination of tobacco cessation counseling and pharmacotherapy. This benefit was effective July 1, 2006.

Component	Duration	Limits
Intake/Assessment/Planning Face-to-face intake, assessment, and treatment planning as a component of treatment	At least 45 minutes	Maximum of one intake, assessment and treatment planning per course of treatment. Two such sessions are permitted per 12-month cycle*
In-Depth – Individual Face-to-face behavioral counseling for tobacco cessation	At least 30 minutes	Maximum 16 sessions per 12-month cycle*
In-Depth – Group Face-to-face group behavioral counseling for tobacco cessation	Minimum 60 to 90 minutes per group sessions, minimum of 3, maximum of 12 participants per group session	Maximum 16 sessions per 12-month cycle*

* A total of 16 face-to-face counseling sessions, using any combination of intake/assessment/planning, in-depth individual or in-depth group counseling sessions are permitted for each member per 12-month cycle without prior authorization.