



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Office of Medicaid**  
600 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02111  
[www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth)



**MassHealth**  
**Physician Bulletin 85**  
**September 2006**

**TO:** Physicians, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners 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 PHY-111 about the new tobacco-cessation benefit, effective July 1, 2006. Attachment 1 of Transmittal Letter PHY-111 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](mailto: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
<b>Intake/Assessment/Planning</b> 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*
<b>In-Depth – Individual</b> Face-to-face behavioral counseling for tobacco cessation	At least 30 minutes	Maximum 16 sessions per 12-month cycle*
<b>In-Depth – Group</b> 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.