

Do you have patients who smoke? HUSKY Health has tools to help!

Importance of the Quality Measure

Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death, with over 480,000 deaths occurring in the U.S each year. Over 16 million Americans are living with a disease caused by smoking such as cancer, heart disease, stroke, and COPD.¹ HUSKY Health recommends that you talk to your patients who are ready to quit smoking about the following covered services that can help them quit and improve their health.



Medications

Bupropion SR (Zyban) and Varenicline oral tablets can be started in the weeks before your patient stops smoking. They can be used along with nicotine replacement therapy (inhalers, gum, lozenges, nasal sprays, and patches).

Counseling

HUSKY Health covers individual face-to-face or group smoking cessation counseling. Counseling, along with other types of treatment, can improve your patient’s chances of quitting. To support you with smoking cessation efforts, HUSKY Health is reimbursing for the two CPT codes below for smoking cessation counseling:

*Codes for Smoking Cessation

CPT CODE ²	DESCRIPTION
99406	Smoking and tobacco cessation counseling visit; intermediate, greater than three minutes, up to 10 minutes
99407	Smoking and tobacco cessation counseling visit; intensive, greater than 10 minutes

*Code sets are routinely updated. Please reference the current year’s manuals when billing for services. For a list of codes reimbursed by DSS, please refer to the Physician Office and Outpatient Services Fee Schedule on the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program website: <https://www.ctdssmap.com/ctportal>.

Please note: Smoking cessation counseling is covered for all HUSKY Health members.

Screening for Lung Cancer

The HUSKY Health program covers low-dose CT scanning³ as a screening test for lung cancer. An annual screening is recommended for members who meet all the following criteria:

- 50+ years old
- Have a 20 pack-year history of smoking, present or previous (quit date must be in the past 15 years)
- Have no other signs or symptoms suggestive of underlying lung cancer
- Are able and willing to undergo curative lung surgery

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (April 2020). Smoking and Tobacco Use, Health Effects. Retrieved from: https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/health_effects/index.htm.

² Claim must include an ICD-10-CM tobacco-related primary diagnosis code (primary) Nicotine Dependence series: F17, F17.2, F17.21, F17.20, F17.22, F17.29, Z87.891.

³ CT scans require prior authorization for all members aged 19 and over.

Tools & Resources for Healthcare Professionals

- CDC Smoking & Tobacco Use. Clinical Education and Training: <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/patient-care/education-training/index.html>
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Implementing Tobacco Cessation Programs in Substance Use Disorder Treatment Settings: <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Implementing-Tobacco-Cessation-Programs-in-Substance-Use-Disorder-Treatment-Settings/SMA18-5069QG>

Resources for Patients & Families

- CT Quitline: 1.800.QUIT.NOW (1.800.784.8669)
- HUSKY Health Member Quit Smoking Now: <https://www.huskyhealthct.org/members/quit-smoking.html#>
- Smokefree.gov has texting programs, personalized quit plans, and other educational resources: <https://smokefree.gov>
- CDC, Quit Smoking: https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/quit_smoking/index.htm

Additional Information on HUSKY Health

For information on quality improvement, quality measures, or the programs and services made available through the HUSKY Health program:

- Visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/husky> click on “**For Providers,**” followed by “**Reports & Resources**” then select the “**Health Measures**” menu item
- Email: Quality@chnct.org
- Call: 1.866.317.3301