



1600 Green Hills Road, Suite 101 • Scotts Valley, CA 95066-4981 • (831) 430-5500
950 East Blanco Road, Suite 101 • Salinas, CA 93901-4419 • (831) 755-6000
530 West 16th Street, Suite B • Merced, CA 95340-4710 • (209) 381-5300

MEMORANDUM

To: All Alliance Providers

From: Javier Carrillo, Health Programs Manager

Date: October 21, 2014

Subject: IMPORTANT UPDATE: Comprehensive Tobacco Cessation Services for Medi-Cal Members

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently issued a policy letter outlining requirements for comprehensive tobacco cessation services for Medi-Cal members. The Alliance will implement these guidelines as defined and required by the State. **Effective November 1, 2014, Alliance contracted providers are required to identify (initially and annually) all members who use tobacco products and document it in members' medical records.**

Tobacco cessation services for Alliance members include:

1. FDA-approved tobacco cessation products (non-pregnant adults of any age)
The Alliance formulary includes bupropion SR, varenicline, nicotine gum, nicotine lozenge, and the nicotine patch for adults who smoke or use other tobacco products. For these drugs, a 90 day course is covered per year without prior authorization. Nicotine inhaler and nicotine nasal spray are covered with prior authorization. Additional courses for any of the drugs require prior authorization.
2. Individual, group, and telephonic counseling for members of any age who use tobacco products.
3. Services for pregnant tobacco users, including assessment and counseling.
4. Prevention of tobacco use in children and adolescents, including education and brief counseling.
5. Provider training on recommended strategies and approaches for tobacco cessation.

The policy can be found on the DHCS website at <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/PL2014/PL14-006.pdf>

If you have any questions about these services, please contact the Health Education Line at 1-800-700-3874, Ext. 5852 or your Provider Service Representative at 1-800-700-3874, Ext. 5504.