



Tobacco Public Policy Center

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OHIO MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR SMOKING CESSATION TREATMENTS

Ohio Medicaid covers a substantial number of smoking cessation treatments. Promoting greater utilization of Medicaid's smoking cessation coverage can help save lives and reduce smoking-related costs. Ohio's annual health care expenditures directly caused by tobacco use amount to \$3.41 billion¹ and \$1.11 billion of this amount is utilized in the Ohio Medicaid program alone.² Medicaid cessation treatments offer a cost-effective way to help low-income and medically vulnerable residents quit smoking. .

Smoking Cessation treatments are "optional" Medicaid services. State legislatures must decide whether or not their state's Medicaid program will cover such treatments and the extent of such coverage.³ Ohio Medicaid coverage of certain smoking cessation treatments began in 1998.⁴

- Ohio Medicaid offers coverage for:
 - Nicotine gum.⁵
 - Nicotine Patches, such as Nicoderm CQ.⁶
 - Nicotine sprays.⁷
 - Nicotine inhalers.⁸
 - Nicotine lozenges, such as Commit Lozenges.⁹
 - Zyban and Chantix, non-nicotine smoking-cessation products.¹⁰
- Nicotine gum, Nicotine lozenges, and some nicotine patches can be purchased without a prescription.¹¹
- For Ohio Medicaid program purposes, whenever prior authorization by a doctor and/or the pharmacy is required for a specific drug, there is always a \$3 co-pay attached to the purchase of such drug (not all prescription drugs need prior authorization). Drugs that require prior authorization among smoking cessation treatments include: Habitrol (Nicotine Patch), Prostep (Nicotine Patch), Nicotine Inhalers and Nicotine Nasal Spray.^{12, 13}
- Individual or group counseling for smoking cessation purposes is not covered.¹⁴
- Ohio Medicaid covers smoking cessation treatments for children through the EPSDT program (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program). In 1989 Congress made EPSDT a statutory requirement of Medicaid regulations.¹⁵

This information is provided for educational purposes only and is not to be construed as a legal opinion or as a substitute for obtaining legal advice from an attorney. The Tobacco Public Policy Center provides legal information and education about tobacco and health, but does not provide legal representation. Readers with questions about the application of the law to specific facts are encouraged to consult legal counsel familiar with the laws of their jurisdictions.

- Ohio’s Medicaid program does not have a tobacco-use cessation program targeted specifically to pregnant women (only 20 states have such a program).¹⁶

For more information, contact the Ohio Medicaid consumer hotline at 800-324-8680.

¹ Centers for Disease Control (CDC), State Highlights (2002), http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/statehi/html_2002/ohio.htm.

² CDC, Smoking-Attributable Medicaid Expenditures, http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/statehi/html_2002/medicaid.htm.

³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Operations, Ctr. for Medicaid and State Operations, Medicaid at a Glance: A Medicaid Information Source, 1 (2005), <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidGenInfo/Downloads/MedicaidAtAGlance2005.pdf>.

⁴ Mary Ellen Wewers et al., Ohio Job and Family Services, Effectiveness of Smoking Cessation Intervention Supported by Medicaid in Ohio, 1 (2001), <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/bhpp/projects/smoking.pdf>.

⁵ Helen A. Halpin et al., *Medicaid Coverage for Tobacco-Dependence Treatments*, 25 Health Affairs 2, 552 (2006).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services, Ohio Medicaid Drug List, <http://medlist.ohio.gov/> (click on the “Search Drug Name” circle and then type in COMMIT).

¹⁰ Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services, Ohio Medicaid Drug List, <http://medlist.ohio.gov/> (click on the “Search Drug Name” circle and then type in ZYBAN or CHANTIX).

¹¹ Centers for Disease Control, Coverage for Tobacco Use Cessation Treatments, www.cdc.gov/Tobacco/educational_materials/cessation/index.html.

¹² Telephone Conversation with Customer Service Representative at the Ohio Medicaid Consumer Hotline (June 27, 2006).

¹³ Ohio Medicaid Drug List, *supra* note 9, (type in NICOTINE first and then type in NICOTROL for second search).

¹⁴ Halpin, *supra* note 5.

¹⁵ EMQ Children & Family Services, Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program (EPSDT), http://www.emq.org/press/issue_epsdtfacts.html.

¹⁶ Halpin, *supra* note 5 at 555.