



# Coding Questions? We've Got the Answers

## Billing for Smoking Cessation Counseling--Are you being paid?

Medicare and many commercial payers now cover counseling to help patients stop smoking if they:

- have a disease or an adverse health effect from tobacco use, or
- are taking a medication which is adversely affected by the tobacco use.

## How should you bill?

Depending on the amount of time a patient spends in counseling, providers should bill CPT 99406 or 99407. Smoking cessation service may be provided on the same day as an E/M service as long as there are two significant, separately identifiable services provided. Append the appropriate modifier to the E/M service. The diagnosis code should reflect the patient's condition that is adversely affected by tobacco use and also use code 305.1. Documentation MUST include the time spent in smoking cessation counseling.

Medicare will cover up to eight sessions per patient in a 12 month period. Check the CWF for your beneficiary to see if the beneficiary has already received the maximum services allowed for the time period. Practices can utilize a Smoking Cessation report to track the number of billed visits (CPT codes 99406 and 99407 utilization) for the 12 month period and even add this to the patient chart interface as a "Smoking Cessation" tab (the report auto runs and displays on the screen when the tab is clicked).

Please note, that deductibles/co-insurance apply and counseling for less than three minutes is included in the E/M services.

At Ulrich Medical, our [systems](#) ensure that no dollar is left behind. We're focused on your bottom line and producing results. If you haven't engaged with [Ulrich Medical Billing](#), I invite you to find out what sets us apart. If you're a current customer, I would like to thank you for your business and continued support. Please contact me directly at 866-885-1150 or [sulrich@ulrichbilling.com](mailto:sulrich@ulrichbilling.com) with any questions.

*To the health of you and your practice,*  
Sandra Ulrich, *President*