

April 2022

OVERVIEW:

Aetna Better Health of Louisiana (ABHLA) is aligned with the Louisiana Department of Health's Medicaid Services Manual, and would like to remind providers to refer to these manuals when submitting claims. If the manual requires additional guidance impacting reimbursement, the details will be outlined by ABHLA in the Provider Manual or in a supporting reimbursement policy.

On March 24, 2022, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) updated [Informational Bulletin 21-13](#) covering tobacco cessation counseling for pregnant beneficiaries. This update extends the coverage period for tobacco cessation counseling and pharmacotherapy to 12 months postpartum (from the previous 60 days)

Effective for dates of service on or after December 1, 2020, ABHLA covers up to eight (8) tobacco cessation counseling sessions per calendar year for pregnant Members.

- Tobacco cessation counseling is covered for pregnant Members when
 - provided by the Member's primary care provider (PCP) or obstetrical (OB) provider, or
 - by other appropriate healthcare professionals upon referral from the Member's PCP or OB provider, but all care must be coordinated.
- Counseling is limited to the following during the prenatal period through 12 months postpartum:
 - up to four (4) tobacco cessation counseling sessions per attempt to quit tobacco use are covered.
 - up to two (2) attempts to quit tobacco use per calendar year are covered, for up to a maximum of eight (8) counseling sessions per calendar year.
- The above limits may be exceeded if deemed medically necessary.
- Tobacco cessation counseling will be reimbursed as a flat fee based on the appropriate CPT code.

Claims Submission

- All claims must be supported by appropriate documentation.
- Claims for tobacco cessation counseling within the prenatal period must include modifier -TH.
- Claims for tobacco cessation counseling within the postpartum period should not include modifier -TH.

- If tobacco cessation counseling is provided as a significant and separately identifiable service on the same day as an Evaluation & Management (E/M) visit, and is supported by clinical documentation, a modifier to indicate a separate service can be used where applicable.

Please note that providers may see reimbursement impacted if not aligned to the Louisiana Department of Health's Medicaid services manual within 30 days of the date of this reminder notification.

Questions and Support:

For questions, please contact LAProvider@AETNA.com or call 1-855-242-0802 and follow the prompts.