Smoking Cessation Algorithm and Billable Codes

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Simple Smoking Cessation Algorithm

Clinic Visit or Disposition at Discharge

Ask: Do you use tobacco?
Have you tried to quit?
Are you willing to quit now?

- Y: Do you need help with nicotine replacement or meds?
  - Y: NRT +/- bupropion/varenicline
  - Y: Would you like referral to Professional Counselling
  - N: Quit Line or In House Program

Letter to primary MD
Revisit quitting plans each visit
Smoking Cessation Billable Codes

Simply stating time spent counselling patient on quitting smoking in EHR will be insufficient for reimbursement.

Items to include for documentation:
- Patient’s current tobacco use
- Advice to quit and impact of smoking
- Assessed willingness to attempt to quit
- Provide methods and skills for cessation
- Medication management-OTC and prescription
- Resources provided
- Setting quit date
- Follow up arranged
- Time spent counselling patient

ICD-10 Codes
- F17.219: cigarette dependence
- F17.229: smokeless dependence

CPT Codes
- 99406→ Intermediate: 3-10 minutes
- 99407→ Intensive: >10 minutes

*Refer to Slide 6
Smoking Cessation Billable Codes

**Example intermediate version: 3-10 minutes for CPT 99406**

I explained to the patient the effects of smoking including peripheral artery disease, coronary artery disease, cerebrovascular disease as well as cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. I asked the patient to **stop smoking** immediately. It is never too late to quit, and many studies show significant health benefits as well as economical savings after smoking cessation. I **offered to the patient nicotine replacement therapy** as well as **referral to the smoking cessation program** and access to the quit line. I **spent 5 minutes** discussing with the patient the importance of complete smoking cessation and tools that can help in achieving it.

Courtesy of Dr. Cassius Ochoa Chaar
Smoking Cessation Billable Codes

**Example** Intensive version: > 10 minutes for CPT 99407

"Tobacco use is a significant patient-modifiable risk factor for this patient’s vascular disease with multiple vascular comorbidities, and a significant risk factor for failure of and complications from any endovascular or surgical interventions. I reinforced this with the patient and urged complete and lasting smoking cessation. I discussed methods and skills for cessation and offered medications including but not limited to nicotine replacement therapy. Based on our conversation, this patient does not appear ready to quit/expresses a passive interest in quitting but does not appear very motivated to quit/appears motivated to quit) and (declined my offer of nicotine replacement or tobacco cessation medications/plans to use nicotine replacement to help quit/plans to use prescription medication to help quit/plans to quit without nicotine replacement or medications). The patient did not set a quit date/set a quit date of _). I will continue to follow up on this issue at our next scheduled visit. I spent approximately xx minutes on tobacco cessation counseling with this patient."

Courtesy of Dr. Greg Westin
• Please note ICD -10 codes and CPT codes are subject to change
• It is the center responsibility to ensure all codes are current for billing purposes