

Clinical Policy: Smoking Cessation Products

Reference Number: PHW.PDL.040

Effective Date: 01/01/2020

Last Review Date: 11/2025

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of PA Health & Wellness® that Smoking Cessation Products are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Smoking Cessation Products

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

Prescriptions for Smoking Cessation Products that meet the following conditions must be prior authorized.

1. A prescription for a non-preferred Smoking Cessation Product regardless of the quantity prescribed.
2. A prescription for a preferred Smoking Cessation Product with a prescribed quantity that exceeds the quantity limit.

B. Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

In evaluating a request for prior authorization of a prescription for a non-preferred Smoking Cessation Products, the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account whether the member:

1. For a non-preferred Smoking Cessation product, has a history of therapeutic failure of or a contraindication or an intolerance to the preferred Smoking Cessation Products;
AND
2. If a prescription for a Smoking Cessation Product is in a quantity that exceeds the quantity limit, the determination of whether the prescription is medically necessary will also take into account the guidelines set forth in PA.CP.PMN.59 Quantity Limit Override.

NOTE: If the member does not meet the clinical review guidelines listed above but, in the professional judgment of the physician reviewer, the services are medically necessary to meet the medical needs of the member, the request for prior authorization will be approved.

C. Clinical Review Process

Prior authorization personnel will review the request for prior authorization and apply the clinical guidelines in Section B. above, to assess the medical necessity of the request for a prescription for a non-preferred Smoking Cessation Product. If the guidelines in Section B are met, the reviewer will prior authorize the prescription. If the guidelines are not met, the prior authorization request will be referred to a physician reviewer for a medical necessity determination. Such a request for prior authorization will be approved when, in the professional judgment of the physician reviewer, the services are medically necessary to meet the medical needs of the member.

D. Approval Duration: 12 months

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date
Policy created	01/01/2020
Q1 2021 annual review: no changes.	01/2021
Q3 review: Updated wording per DHS	07/2022
Q1 2023 annual review: no changes.	11/2022
Q1 2024 annual review: no changes.	11/2023
Q1 2025 annual review: no changes.	11/2024
Q1 2026 annual review: no changes.	11/2025