



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KEVIN W. CONCANNON, DIRECTOR

RECEIVED

January 16, 2008

JAN 16 2008

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
AGENCY**

Michael Marshall
Secretary of Senate
State Capitol
LOCAL

Mark Brandsgard
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol
LOCAL

Dear Mr. Marshall and Mr. Brandsgard:

Enclosed please find copies of reports to the Iowa General Assembly relative to the Iowa Medicaid Smoking Cessation Program.

These reports were prepared pursuant to the directive contained in HF909, which is listed below:

11. The Drug Utilization Review Commission shall monitor the smoking cessation benefit provided under the medical assistance program and shall provide a report of utilization, client success, cost effectiveness, and recommendations for any changes in the benefit to the persons designated in this Act to receive reports by January 15, 2008. If a prescriber determines that all smoking cessation aids on the preferred drug list are not effective or medically appropriate for a patient, the prescriber may apply for an exception to policy for another product approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for smoking cessation pursuant to 441 IAC 24 27 1.8(1).

This report by the Iowa Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Commission is in response to a request by the Iowa General Assembly to monitor the smoking cessation benefit for Iowa Medicaid members. This review is performed on an ongoing basis to ensure all the elements of the legislation are met.

This report is divided into three sections: Background, Program Results, and DUR Review and Recommendations.

Background

A. Program Review

- The 2005-2006 General Assembly passed HF825 and HF841 requesting that the department expand coverage under the medical assistance program to cover smoking cessation drugs. This was to be done in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Public Health programs relating to tobacco use prevention and cessation.

- Iowa Medicaid requested that the Iowa Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Commission develop prior authorization criteria for the smoking cessation program incorporating counseling through Quitline Iowa. (Studies have shown that smoking cessation programs that incorporate counseling in conjunction with medication therapy have higher success rates.)
- The Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee was requested to review the smoking cessation products for inclusion on the Preferred Drug List.
- Effective January 1, 2007, the Iowa Medicaid Program expanded coverage to include select over-the-counter nicotine replacement patches and gum, and generic bupropion sustained-release products that are FDA-indicated for smoking cessation (generic Zyban®). Bupropion 150mg sustained-release products that are FDA-indicated for smoking cessation (generic Zyban®) are available without prior authorization (PA). Over-the-counter nicotine replacement patches and gum is covered with a prior authorization.

B. Prior Authorization (PA) Criteria for Nicotine Replacement Therapy

Following recommendations from both the DUR and P&T Committees, the prior authorization criteria was established as follows:

Prior Authorization is required for over-the-counter nicotine replacement patches and nicotine gum. Requests for authorization must include:

- 1) Diagnosis of nicotine dependence and referral to the Quitline Iowa program for counseling.
- 2) Confirmation of enrollment in the Quitline Iowa counseling program is required for approval.
- 3) Approvals will only be granted for patients eighteen years of age and older.
- 4) The maximum allowed duration of therapy is twelve weeks within a twelve-month period.
- 5) A maximum quantity of 14 nicotine replacement patches and/or 110 pieces of nicotine gum may be dispensed with the initial prescription. Subsequent prescription refills will be allowed to be dispensed as a 4-week supply at one unit per day of nicotine replacement patches and /or 330 pieces of nicotine gum. Following the first 28 days of therapy, continuation is available only with documentation of ongoing participation in the Quitline Iowa program.

C. Prior Authorization (PA) Process

- Iowa Medicaid members who want assistance in quitting smoking need to be referred to Quitline Iowa by their healthcare provider.
- If it is determined that the member would benefit from using over-the-counter nicotine replacement patches and/or gum, a Nicotine Replacement Therapy Prior Authorization form must be completed by the member and the prescriber. Quitline Iowa will follow up with the member and assess the member's smoking cessation counseling needs.

- Following this initial consultation, Quitline Iowa will submit a prior authorization request to the Iowa Medicaid PA Unit for coverage of the necessary smoking cessation products.
- In the event that the member chooses to disenroll from the Quitline Iowa program, all approved prior authorizations will be cancelled and notification will be faxed to the provider and pharmacy, while a letter will be mailed to the member.

Program Results

Quitline Program

For the time period of 1/1/07 to 9/30/07, there were 1,811 unique Medicaid members that enrolled in Quitline Iowa and started on nicotine replacement therapies. The outcome of these members is highlighted below:

- 938 unique members completed all four counseling calls.
 - Of this number, 402 individuals were considered smoke free at the completion of counseling, which is defined as being smoke free for more than 24 hours.
- 753 members dropped out of the Quitline program, which is defined by the following scenarios:
 1. The counselors made multiple attempts to reach 651 members by phone and mail and the member did not call them back.
 2. 102 members made a conscious decision to not continue with the counseling and informed the counselor of that during their last counseling call.
- 120 unique members have not yet had the opportunity to complete their 4th follow-up call.

Fifty-five unique members re-enrolled in the Quitline program after originally dropping out. Of the 55 re-enrolled members, 20 re-enrollees dropped out of Quitline a 2nd time. Thirty re-enrollees completed all four counseling calls. Of this number, 12 were smoke free at the completion of counseling.

The average time of participation in the Quitline program for all Medicaid members who enrolled was 30.78 days. The average number of re-enrollments among unique members that re-enrolled was 1.67.

Quitline requested a prior authorization for 243 unique individuals and then were unable to reach the member to enroll them in the counseling program. The inability to contact the member was a barrier to this process. Members did not respond to post cards or phone messages. Quitline counselors often received constant busy signals, invalid phone numbers, or disconnected phones.

At this time, Quitline is unable to provide data on the number of unique individuals who were smoke free at 6-months.

Prior Authorization Program

For the time period of 1/1/07 to 9/30/07, members received a total of 3,546 prescriptions. Of this number, 2,975 prescriptions were for patches, 272 for gum, and 299 for bupropion. The total cost for these smoking cessation products was \$171,053.70.

Through September 2007, 2,744 Prior Authorizations (PA's) were approved for nicotine patches and 256 PA's were approved for nicotine gum. Reasons for denials were: member was under 18 years of age, member was not originally enrolled in Quitline, the PA request form was incomplete, and the member disenrolled from Quitline. There were 356 requests for noncovered products, 345 of which were for Chantix®. There were also three requests for an Exception to Policy for Chantix® which were not granted.

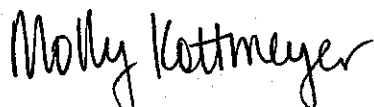
DUR Review and Recommendations

The Commission continues to monitor utilization, client success, and cost effectiveness for the Iowa Medicaid Smoking Cessation Program. Through September 30, 2007, there were 3,000 prior authorizations for nicotine replacement products that have been approved for a total cost of \$143,252.30. In addition, \$27,801.40 was spent on 299 prescriptions for bupropion. The total cost for the program through September 30, 2007 is \$171,053.70.

The Commission will review other drug products on an ongoing basis for safety, efficacy, and cost effectiveness to determine whether they would be a beneficial addition to the program.

The Commission recommends that the Quitline identify additional mechanisms by which to further define the parameters of success. In addition, the Commission recommends that the Quitline develop new strategies to identify and resolve communication barriers with Iowa Medicaid enrollees.

Sincerely,



Molly Kottmeyer
Legislative Liaison

Enclosure

cc: Dennis Prouty, Legislative Service Agency
Peter Matthes, Senate Republican Caucus
Kris Bell, Senate Democratic Caucus
Brad Trow, House Republican Caucus
Zeke Furlong, House Democratic Caucus

Final Report

Quitline Medicaid Data
1/1/07 to 9/30/07

Category Breakdown	Number of Medicaid Members	Additional Information	Comments
1 Number of <i>unique</i> Medicaid enrollees that have started Quitline and nicotine replacement therapies	1811	34 members: we made initial contact but member chose not to enroll. 206 members: we received a single fax and were not able to make initial contact. 37 members: we received multiple faxes in various timeframes and were never able to make contact.	Chose to enroll in the program in their initial call (In their first enrollment)
**Number of <i>unique</i> members that dropped out of Quitline	753	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 102 members made a conscious decision to not continue with counseling and informed the counselor of that during their last counseling call. Counselors made multiple attempts to reach 651 members via phone and mail, but the member never called them back. 	Once a member drops out of Quitline, they no longer qualify to receive nicotine replacement gum or patches. [Dropped during their first enrollment]
**Number of <i>unique</i> members that completed all four counseling calls	938		In their first enrollment
Of this, the number of <i>unique</i> individuals who were smoke free at the completion of counseling	402		In Action stage of change (smoke free for more than 24 hours) at their final counseling call; smoke free for more than 24 hours during their first enrollment at the 4th week follow-up call
Other	120		<i>Unique</i> members that have completed their initial call(s) but have not completed their 4 th week follow-up call yet, and therefore their status is active.

Final Report

2	Number of <i>unique</i> members who re-enrolled in Quitline after they originally dropped out	55		In their 2nd enrollment only
	**Number of re-enrollees who dropped out of Quitline for a 2nd time	20		In their 2nd enrollment only
	**Number of re-enrollees who completed all four counseling calls.	30		In their 2nd enrollment only
	Of this, the number of re-enrollees who were smoke free at the completion of counseling.	12		In their 2nd enrollment only
3	Average time of participation in the Quitline program for all Medicaid members	30.78 days		Computed the day difference between the 1st call and the last call for each unique member and divided the sum by the total number
4	Average number of re-enrollments among <i>unique</i> members that re-enrolled.	1.67	Data calculated by same last name, first name, phone	
5	Number of <i>unique</i> individuals who Quitline requested a prior authorization for and then were unable to reach the member to enroll them in the counseling program.	243	(206 + 37) Please see # 1	Tried various methods to reach the individuals. They did not respond to post cards, phone messages, or Quitline counselors received constant busy signals, invalid phone numbers, or disconnected phones.
6	Number of <i>unique</i> individuals who were smoke free at 6 months.	data unavailable until Jan '08		

Smoking Cessation Total Prescriptions, Unique Client Count, and Disenrolled

	Total Prescription for Patches, Gum, and Bupropion	Total Monthly Unique Client Count Per Month for Patches, Gum, and Bupropion	Disenrolled
Jan-07	104	88	4
Feb-07	127	106	32
Mar-07	229	187	46
Apr-07	416	310	57
May-07	431	327	193
Jun-07	373	297	180
Jul-07	517	403	152
Aug-07	717	518	209
Sep-07	632	467	181
YTD Total	3546	2703	1054
Average	394	300	117

Smoking Cessation Requests for Non-Covered Products

	Chantix		Nicotine Inhaler		Nicotine Lozenge		Nicotine Nasal Spray		Total Number of Non-Covered Product Requests
	Denied PAs	ETPs	Denied PAs	ETPs	Denied PAs	ETPs	Denied PAs	ETPs	
Jan-07	30	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	32
Feb-07	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
Mar-07	44	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	45
Apr-07	47	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	49
May-07	29	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	30
Jun-07	27	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	28
Jul-07	55	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	56
Aug-07	48	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	50
Sep-07	36	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	37
YTD Total	345	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	356
Average	38	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	39.56

Smoking Cessation PA Statistics

	Nicotine Patches						Nicotine Gum								
	Approved			Denied			Approved			Denied			Incomplete		
	Count	%	Notes	Count	%	Notes	Count	%	Notes	Count	%	Notes	Count	%	Notes
Jan-07	86	67.19%	25 of the original 19 denials ended up getting a pa	25	19.53%	19 of the original 45 denials ended up getting a pa	17	13.28%	5 of the original 5 denials ended up getting a pa for the gum	5	41.67%	2 of the original 3 denials ended up getting a pa	0	0.00%	
Feb-07	122	67.03%	45 of the original 88 denials ended up getting a pa	45	24.73%	3 of the original 8 denials ended up getting a pa	15	8.24%	13 of the original 60 denials ended up getting a pa	13	76.47%	6 of the original 26 denials ended up getting a pa	1	5.88%	
Mar-07	205	65.08%	88 of the original 133 denials ended up getting a pa	88	27.94%	17 out of the original 60 denials ended up getting a pa	22	6.98%	14 of the original 24 denials ended up getting a pa	14	60.87%	6 of the original 26 denials ended up getting a pa	3	13.04%	
Apr-07	316	78.22%	60 of the original 183 denials ended up getting a pa	60	14.85%	12 out of the original 183 denials ended up getting a pa	28	6.93%	24 of the original 85 denials ended up getting a pa	24	85.71%	2 of the original 7 denials ended up getting a pa	2	7.14%	
May-07	321	60.23%	183 of the original 303 denials ended up getting a pa	183	34.33%	11 out of the original 168 denials ended up getting a pa	29	5.44%	19 of the original 55 denials ended up getting a pa	19	55.88%	13 of the original 38 denials ended up getting a pa	2	5.88%	
Jun-07	248	56.24%	168 of the original 303 denials ended up getting a pa	168	38.10%	27 out of the original 155 denials ended up getting a pa	25	5.67%	28 of the original 58 denials ended up getting a pa	28	58.33%	17 of the original 35 denials ended up getting a pa	3	6.25%	
Jul-07	466	69.87%	155 of the original 221 denials ended up getting a pa	155	23.24%	40 out of the original 210 denials ended up getting a pa	46	6.90%	49 of the original 71 denials ended up getting a pa	49	71.01%	15 of the original 21 denials ended up getting a pa	5	7.25%	
Aug-07	577	68.28%	210 of the original 307 denials ended up getting a pa	210	24.85%	13 out of the original 152 denials ended up getting a pa	58	6.86%	55 of the original 68 denials ended up getting a pa	55	68.75%	19 of the original 23 denials ended up getting a pa	6	7.50%	
Sep-07	403	68.42%	152 of the original 221 denials ended up getting a pa	152	25.81%		34	5.77%	47 of the original 63 denials ended up getting a pa	47	63.51%	25 of the original 33 denials ended up getting a pa	2	2.70%	
YTD Total	2744		1096			274		256		105		24			

Average	305	66.86%	121	26.46%	30	6.68%	28	66.49%	12	27.27%	3	6.23%			
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Smoking Cessation Prescription and Paid Dollar Amounts

	Nicotine Patches		Nicotine Gum		Bupropion		Total Monthly Paid Amount for Patches, Gum, and Bupropion
	Number of Prescriptions	Amount Paid	Number of Prescriptions	Amount Paid	Number of Prescriptions	Amount Paid	
Jan-07	78	\$3,237.29	6	\$230.77	20	\$1,780.70	\$5,248.76
Feb-07	100	\$4,276.10	12	\$529.95	15	\$1,337.99	\$6,144.04
Mar-07	180	\$7,636.72	11	\$574.51	38	\$3,430.87	\$11,642.10
Apr-07	352	\$15,136.20	31	\$1,364.10	33	\$2,991.13	\$19,491.43
May-07	372	\$16,541.16	31	\$1,350.51	28	\$2,654.11	\$20,545.78
Jun-07	320	\$14,095.72	27	\$1,136.45	26	\$2,425.76	\$17,657.93
Jul-07	426	\$18,964.50	41	\$1,705.74	50	\$4,734.92	\$25,405.16
Aug-07	617	\$27,716.88	61	\$2,613.39	39	\$3,748.77	\$34,079.04
Sep-07	530	\$23,940.14	52	\$2,202.17	50	\$4,697.15	\$30,839.46
YTD Total	2975	\$131,544.71	272	\$11,707.59	299	\$27,801.40	\$171,053.70
Average	331	\$14,616.08	30	\$1,300.84	33	\$3,089.04	\$19,005.97