



Medicaid Prevention Learning Network Tobacco Cessation Affinity Group

The Medicaid Prevention Learning Network is an opportunity for state Medicaid programs to receive enhanced technical assistance and engage in state-to-state learning to promote best practices in preventive health care in Medicaid and CHIP.

The tobacco cessation affinity group focuses on strategies to increase utilization and quality of cessation benefits for people enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP with the aims of reducing tobacco use, improving health, and reducing costs attributable to smoking-related health conditions.

Individuals enrolled in Medicaid smoke at very high rates. The majority of people who smoke would like to quit. Most people need assistance quitting and require more than one attempt to quit successfully. Tobacco cessation interventions, including counseling and medications, have been found to be among the most cost effective preventive services.

Goals:

- Support state efforts to improve quality and utilization of medical assistance with tobacco cessation (counseling and pharmacotherapy)
 - Improve quality of cessation benefits provided
 - Improve capacity to track cessation benefit utilization
 - Increase utilization rates
 - Increase performance on the Medical Assistance with Smoking and Tobacco Cessation measure in the Adult Core Set

Benefits to states:

- An opportunity to learn about and share best and promising approaches to reducing tobacco use among people enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP
- Regular communication with CMS to support efforts
- Assistance in establishing a network of partners in public health and other areas at the state and federal level to advise and support efforts for maximum impact

Participants:

- State Medicaid agency staff committed to improving quality and utilization of tobacco cessation services
- Staff from CMS committed to providing technical assistance
- Expert advisors from CMS and partner agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Cancer Institute

Commitment:

- Submission of the expression of interest form that identifies the state's proposed project and goal(s), identifies team members, and indicates leadership support
- Participation in monthly one-on-one calls for 9 months beginning April 2015 and periodic calls with other states and tobacco cessation and quality improvement experts

To participate in the Learning Network, contact Deirdra Stockmann at 410-786-2433 or MedicaidCHIPPrevention@cms.hhs.gov