

PROVIDER BULLETIN

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GROUP COUNSELING FOR TOBACCO CESSATION

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COVERAGE OF GROUP COUNSELING

July 1, 2016, the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) reimburses for group behavioral health counseling for tobacco cessation for MO HealthNet eligible participants. Group counseling requires precertification, which may be obtained through CyberAccess, or by fax or telephone. Please see [Provider Bulletin Volume 37, Number 06, October 31, 2014](#) for detailed instructions on obtaining precertification for behavioral health services and for limitations that may apply based on participant age and eligibility.

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

Providers should reference sections 1.1 and 13.2 of the [behavioral health provider manual](#) for further information regarding participant eligibility. Participants enrolled in a MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan receive group counseling for tobacco cessation on a fee-for-service basis outside of the Managed Care benefit package.

PROVIDER PARTICIPATION

Eligible providers of group counseling for tobacco cessation include MO HealthNet enrolled:

- Psychiatrists
- Psychologists
- Provisionally licensed psychologists
- Mental health nurse practitioners
- Mental health clinical nurse specialists

- Licensed professional counselors (LPC)
- Provisionally licensed professional counselors (PLPC)
- Licensed clinical social workers (LCSW)
- Licensed master social workers (LMSW)

PROCEDURE CODE AND LIMITS

CPT Code	Code Description and Limits
90853	Group psychotherapy (other than a multiple-family group) – at least 3 but not more than 10 individuals per group. (30 minute unit) Maximum of 3 units per day, 15 units per month, per participant, per provider

LCSWs and LMSWs may be reimbursed for services provided to adults (21 and over) in the Rural Health Clinic or Federally Qualified Health Center setting only. LPCs and PLPCs may be reimbursed for services provided to individuals under age 21 only. Please see [Provider Bulletin Volume 38, Number 02, July 15, 2015](#) for information on other covered services for tobacco cessation, including individual counseling and pharmacologic interventions.

MODIFIERS

Claims must be submitted using the appropriate modifier:

- AH – Psychologist and provisional licensee
- AJ – LCSW and LMSW
- UD – LPC and PLPC

Provider Bulletins are available on the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) (Formerly the Division of Medical Services) Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pages/bulletins.htm>. Bulletins will remain on the Provider Bulletins page only until incorporated into the [provider manuals](#) as appropriate, then moved to the Archived Bulletin page.

MO HealthNet News: Providers and other interested parties are urged to go to the MHD Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/> to subscribe to the electronic mailing list to receive automatic notifications of provider bulletins, provider manual updates, and other official MO HealthNet communications via E-mail.

MO HealthNet Managed Care: The information contained in this bulletin applies to coverage for:

- MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service
- Services not included in MO HealthNet Managed Care

Questions regarding MO HealthNet Managed Care benefits should be directed to the patient’s MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan. Before delivering a service, please check the patient’s eligibility status by swiping the MO HealthNet card or by calling the Provider Communications Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-751-2896 and using Option One for the red or white card.

Provider Communications Hotline
573-751-2896