

October 9, 2020

## Smoking Cessation Counseling

Applies to: Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) and Health and Recovery Plans (HARP)/Personal Wellness Plan (PWP)

Starting **November 1, 2020**, Healthfirst will remove service limits on smoking cessation counseling (SCC) and instead will cover as many sessions as are medically necessary. Previously, SCC services were limited to eight (8) sessions per calendar year.

**Impacted members were sent letters in early October notifying them of this benefit change.**

### What Services Does SCC Include?

SCC includes screening, behavioral interventions, medication for adults; and behavioral interventions for school-aged children and adolescents, as appropriate. This benefit is available to members who use smokeless tobacco products (dip, chew, snuff, etc.), cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and vaping of nicotine products.

### Who Can Provide SCC Services?

SCC services can be provided by licensed and certified providers and clinics, in person or via telehealth. SCC services may currently be performed by:

- Physicians (MD, DO)
- Physician assistants
- Nurse practitioners
- Licensed midwives
- Dentists

In addition, Medicaid fee-for-service has expanded the list of practitioners who can provide SCC services to include: Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Clinical Psychologists, Licensed Master Social Workers, Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses.

# Provider Alert

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Should you have any questions, you may contact your network representative, or call Provider Services at **1-888-801-1660**, Monday to Friday, 8:30am–5:30pm.