

CPT Code Classification

99406 Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation Counseling Visit; **Intermediate, 4 - 10 minutes**

99407 Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation Counseling Visit; **Intensive, 11 or more minutes**

Frequency of Use

2 smoking cessation **attempts to quit** per year
4 intermediate and/or intensive counseling visits (per **attempt**)
= **8** counseling visit per patient, per year total

Types of Tobacco/Nicotine

Cigars, Cigarettes, Hookah, Snuff, Chew, Vape Pens or E-Cigarettes, Patch, Lozenges, Gum

Covered Diagnosis Codes

F17.210 Nicotine dependence, **cigarettes**, uncomplicated
F17.211 Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, in remission
F17.220 Nicotine dependence, **chewing tobacco**, uncomplicated
F17.221 Nicotine dependence, chewing tobacco, in remission
F17.290 Nicotine dependence, **other tobacco product**, uncomplicated
F17.291 Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product, in remission
Z87.891 **Personal history** of nicotine dependence

For e-cigarettes/vaping nicotine, use F17.290 or F17.291

Required Documentation

The documentation in the medical record must support the codes assigned. Specifically, document what was discussed:

- The patient's current tobacco use
- The patient's desire or need to quit
- Identify the cessation technique(s) and resource(s) provided
- Estimated quit date
- Planned follow-up
- Include the time spent in minutes

Example Documentation:

The patient has atherosclerosis with an ulcer on the left toe but continues to smoke one pack of cigarettes per day. I spent 12 minutes counseling the patient on cessation techniques. She understands continuing to smoke could lead to unhealed ulcers, amputations and even death. The benefits of quitting were provided, and she agreed to give it a try. A goal was set to be smoke-free within the next six weeks. I will follow up in two weeks to check progress.

Medicare and most commercial payors will allow payment for a medically necessary E/M service on the same day as smoking and tobacco counseling. Both services can be documented on the same visit note, but it is imperative to separate the time spent in minutes for each service. When both are done on the same day, assign modifier 25 to the E/M service code to indicate it was a separately identifiable.