

Accessing Pharmacotherapy for Smoking Cessation: Delaware County Pennsylvania

Medicaid: Federal/state program that provides services to low-income individuals with high medical expenses.

As of Jan. 1, 2002, Medicaid must cover FDA-approved pharmacotherapy (NRT and Zyban®) for PA Medicaid recipients. The following limits for coverage of tobacco cessation drug products and counseling services is from the Medical Assistance Bulletin from the PA Dept. of Public Welfare dated January 16, 2002: "... the MA Program will cover either the drug products or the counseling services for those MA recipients who do not want both or will cover both in combination for those who do and are eligible for pharmacy services. Drug therapy and counseling services each will be limited to one regimen per recipient per calendar year. A regimen of drug therapy is defined as single or combination of drug products prescribed by a physician to include the original prescription and up to 5 refills within a 6-month period, per calendar year. (For example, if the recipient does not finish up a regimen by December, the recipient becomes eligible for a new regimen in January). A regimen of counseling service is defined as 10 units of tobacco cessation treatment sessions per calendar year to include either individual or group sessions. One unit is defined as a 15-minute face-to-face session."

General Eligibility Requirements: Must meet income, resource, and other eligibility requirements for Medicaid.

- 1. Income** includes wages, interest, and social security. Income does not include food stamps or foster care payments.
 - 2. Resources** include cash, checking accounts, and savings accounts. Resources do not include your home or one motor vehicle.
 - 3. Other eligibility requirements**
 - a. Verification of identity with either: Social Security number or a driver's license
 - b. Must be a resident of Pennsylvania (no length of time requirement)
 - c. Must be a United States citizen age 65 or older, or a member of a family with children under 21 years of age. Individuals with disabilities may also be eligible.
- **For complete information visit PA Department of Welfare website at:**
<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us>
 - **Applications can be obtained from the County Assistance Office.**
 - **Financial Eligibility:**
 - Determined by your local County Assistance Office.
 - Income cannot exceed 300 percent of the Federal Benefit Rate or approximately \$1600/month for an individual in 2001.
 - **County Assistance Offices**
 - **Delaware County:** Headquarters (610) 447-5500
Crosby District (610) 447-5300
Lansdowne District (610) 461-3800
 - **Montgomery County**
Norristown District (610) 270-3500
Pottstown District (610) 327-4280
 - **Bucks County:** Headquarters (215) 781-3300
Warminster District (215) 443-3200
 - **Philadelphia County:** Headquarters (215) 560-2900
 - **Berks County**
Reading District (610) 736-4211

Options for Medicaid in Philadelphia region: Americhoice 1-800-321-4462; HealthPartners 1-800-553-0784; Keystone-Mercy 1-800-521-6860

2. Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly (PACE)

- Covers prescription medications such as Zyban® and Nicotrol® Inhaler (no OTC medications are covered).
- **Eligibility:** Must be a Pennsylvania resident for at least 90 days. Gross income for previous year must be less than \$14,000 for single person and less than \$17,200 for married applicants. Must be 65 or older.
- \$6.00 per medication co-payment.
- Applications available at pharmacies, Legislative District Offices, and Area Agencies on Aging Offices.
- Pennsylvania Dept. of Aging PACE Program
P.O. Box 8806
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8806
1-(800)-225-7223

3. Pennsylvania-PACENET

- Covers prescription medications such as Zyban® and Nicotrol® Inhaler (no OTC medications are covered).
- **Eligibility:** Pennsylvania resident for at least 90 days prior to the date of application and over the age of 65 years. Income for the year preceding application must be between \$14,000 and \$17,000 per year if single or between \$17,200 and \$20,200 for married couples.
- Must meet \$500 deductible each year.
- \$8.00 per generic medication and \$15.00 per brand medication co-payments.
- Applications available at pharmacies, Legislative District Offices, and Area Agencies on Aging Offices.
- Address & phone number: Same as PACE (above).

4. For those patients paying cash, see Comparison of Pharmacotherapy for dosing & pricing

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