



# MLN Matters



Information for Medicare Fee-for-Service Health Care Professionals

MLN Matters Number: MM4104

Related Change Request (CR) #: 4104

Related CR Release Date: January 24, 2006

Effective Date: April 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: R818CP

Implementation Date: April 3, 2006

## Smoking and Tobacco-Use Cessation Counseling Services: Common Working File (CWF) Inquiry for Providers

**Note:** This article was revised to contain web addresses that conform to the new CMS website and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. All other information remains the same.

### Provider Affected

---

Providers billing Medicare fiscal intermediaries (FIs), including regional home health intermediaries (RHHs), for smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling

### Provider Action Needed

---

CR4104 announces the implementation of the capability for providers to access the CWF (part of Medicare's claims processing systems) for viewing the number of smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling sessions a beneficiary has received.

### Background

---

CR3929, issued July 15, 2005, implements a frequency-of-service limitations edit in the CWF for smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling, for dates of service on or after October 1, 2005. The implementation date for this CWF edit is October 3, 2005.

Effective April 1, 2006, Medicare providers will be given the capability to view the number of smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling sessions provided to a beneficiary. Providers will be able to access this file through the CWF, by entering the beneficiary's health insurance claim number (HICN).

#### Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

Ultimately, the capability to view the number of smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling sessions provided to a beneficiary gives providers the ability to determine a beneficiary's available coverage for this service.

## Additional Information

---

For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your FI/RHHI regarding this change. That instruction may be found by going to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R818CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your FI/RHHI at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/contacts/> on the CMS website.

### Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.