

Medi-Cal Coverage

TOBACCO CESSATION MEDICATIONS

FACTSHEET



What is Medi-Cal Rx?

[Medi-Cal Rx](#) is the centralized pharmacy benefit manager program for all of Medi-Cal, including managed care plans. Effective January 1, 2022, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) transitioned all Medi-Cal pharmacy benefits and services from managed care to the fee-for-service delivery system.



What tobacco cessation medications are covered by Medi-Cal Rx?

Medi-Cal Rx covers ALL [FDA-Approved medications](#). The over-the-counter (OTC) medications (nicotine patch, gum, lozenge) are covered by a **provider prescription** or a [pharmacist who can furnish](#) nicotine medications. See the Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs List formulary grid for drug name, dose, strength, and quantity limits.

List of medications on the [Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs List](#):

Bupropion	Varenicline	Nicotine Lozenge
Nicotine Gum	Nicotine Patch	Nicotine Nasal Spray

↳ As of August 2023: No longer requires prior authorization

Note: Nicotine inhaler, previously available via prior authorization, has been [discontinued by the manufacturer](#) due to production issues.



Are Teenagers Covered?

Medi-Cal will cover these medications for teenagers, if a provider determines it is appropriate.



Helpful Tips for Patients

- Visit the [CDC's How to Use Quit Smoking Medicines](#) for more information on each of the FDA-approved medications and how to use them.
- Medications AND counseling double the chances of quitting. [Kick It CA](#) provides FREE tobacco counseling.
- Print [this flyer](#) for your patients to learn about the FDA-Approved medications.

Medi-Cal Formulary References:

[Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs List](#): Bupropion and Varenicline

Drug Name	Dosage	Strength/ Package Size	Billing Unit	UM Type	Code 1
SMOKING DETERRENTS					
Bupropion	Tablets	75 mg 100 mg	ea ea		Note: Refer to the Reimbursement section of this manual for reimbursement guidelines and details concerning the use of smoking cessation products during pregnancy for fee-for-service Medi-Cal patients.
	Tablets, Extended Release (24-hour)	150 mg 300 mg	ea ea		
	Tablets, Sustained Release (12-hour)	100 mg 150 mg 200 mg	ea ea ea		
	Tablets, Sustained Release for smoking cessation	150 mg	ea		
Varenicline Tartrate	Tablets	0.5 mg 1.0 mg	ea ea		
	Tablets from Continuing Month Box (56 tablets/box)	1.0 mg	ea		
	Tablets starting Month Box (53 tablets/box)	11 x 0.5 mg 42 x 0.5 mg	ea ea		

[Medi-Cal Rx Contracts Drug List OTC](#): Nicotine patch, gum, lozenge

Drug Name	Dosage	Strength/ Package Size	Billing Unit	UM Type	Code 1
MISCELLANEOUS: SMOKING DETERRENTS					
Nicotine	Transdermal patches	7 mg/24 hr 14 mg/24 hr 21 mg/24 hr	ea ea ea		Note: Refer to the Reimbursement section of this manual for reimbursement guidelines and details concerning the use of smoking cessation products during pregnancy for fee-for-service Medi-Cal patients.
Nicotine Polacrilex	Gum	2 mg 4 mg	ea ea		Note: Refer to the Reimbursement section of this manual for reimbursement guidelines and details concerning the use of smoking cessation products during pregnancy for fee-for-service Medi-Cal patients.
	Lozenges	2 mg 4 mg	ea ea		

[Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drugs List](#): Nicotine Nasal Spray

Drug Name	Dosage	Strength/ Package Size	Billing Unit	UM Type	Code 1
Central Nervous System: Miscellaneous					
Nicotine	Nasal Spray	10 mg/ml	ml		Note: Refer to the Reimbursement section of the Medi-Cal Rx Provider Manual for reimbursement guidelines and details concerning the use of smoking cessation products during pregnancy for fee-for-service Medi-Cal patients.