How to Get Reimbursed for Tobacco Cessation Counseling

For UniCare State Indemnity Plan Members
Effective July 1, 2013

What does the reimbursement cover?
UniCare members are covered for counseling for tobacco dependence/smoking cessation up to 300 minutes per calendar year. Once the Plan receives a paid receipt for these services, the Plan will reimburse the member or provider up to the Plan’s allowed amount. The counseling can occur in a face-to-face setting or over the telephone, either individually or in a group.

What is a tobacco cessation program?
A tobacco cessation program is a program that focuses on behavior modification, while reducing the amount smoked over a number of weeks until the quit, or cutoff, date.

Who can provide this counseling?
The counseling can be provided by physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurse-midwives, registered nurses and tobacco cessation counselors. Tobacco cessation counselors are non-physician providers who have completed at least eight hours of instruction in tobacco cessation from an accredited institute of higher learning. Tobacco cessation counselors must work under the supervision of a physician.

How can I get reimbursed for tobacco cessation counseling?
Just complete and mail the Tobacco Cessation Counseling Reimbursement form and a photocopy of your paid receipt. Your receipt must include the member’s name, dates of service, amount charged and amount paid. We suggest you keep copies of all paperwork you send to UniCare.

Is there anything else I should know?
- Counseling is also covered as part of your preventive exam.
- Nicotine replacement products are available through the prescription drug plan.
- To learn about additional counseling at no cost, call UniCare Customer Service at (800) 442-9300.