

Background:

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is investigating suspected cases of pulmonary disease among individuals who report vaping. Similar cases have occurred in multiple other states, some resulting in hospitalization. All suspect cases reported vaping with products including nicotine and/or tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Evaluation for infectious diseases was negative in all patients.

Tobacco Cessation Benefits in Medicaid

Medicaid provides tobacco cessation counseling (procedure code 99406 & 99407) in individual and group settings to members 10 years and older with a diagnosis of nicotine dependence.

Adolescents with a nicotine dependency diagnosis related to aerosolized nicotine delivered by vape device are eligible for tobacco cessation counseling.

The Medicaid formulary includes select medications and nicotine replacement products to support tobacco cessation.

Contact your health plan about additional supports that may be offered as a value-added service.

Tobacco Cessation Benefits in CHIP

Tobacco Cessation Programs

A health plan-approved tobacco cessation program is covered up to a \$100 limit per 12-month coverage period. Tobacco cessation program services are for a 12-month coverage period. The health plan may require prior authorization and use of a formulary.

CHIP Perinatal Program:

- Tobacco cessation programs are not a covered benefit for the unborn child.
- Coverage for the CHIP Perinatal newborn is the same as coverage for traditional CHIP clients.

The CHIP formulary includes select medications to support tobacco cessation.

Recommendations for Clinicians

- Ask patients presenting with respiratory symptoms about vaping history. If possible, inquire about the types of products used and methods of use.
- If vaping fluid commonly used by the patient is available, ask that it be set aside (not used) in case it is needed for testing.
- Be aware that some suspect cases have required high-level intensive care and respiratory support.

More information is in the DSHS public health notice link below.

[DSHS public health notice](#)