

Smoking Cessation

Override(s)	Approval Duration
Prior Authorization Quantity Limit	<p>Initial approval: 3 months per quit attempt.</p> <p>Continued use: An additional 3 month approval for individuals who have successfully stopped smoking at the end of 12 weeks will be considered with a prior authorization request. The maximum duration of approvable therapy per quit attempt is 24.</p>

Medications	Quantity Limit
Chantix (varenicline) 0.5mg, 1mg tablets Starter Pak	May be subject to quantity limit
Apo-varenicline (varenicline) 0.5mg, 1mg tablets	
Nicotrol Inhaler (nicotine inhaler) Each cartridge containing 10 mg (4 mg is delivered) nicotine	
Nicotrol Nasal Spray (nicotine nasal spray) Nicotine 0.5mg/1actuation	

APPROVAL CRITERIA

Requests for a smoking cessation agent [Chantix (varenicline), Apo-varenicline, Nicotrol Inhaler (nicotine inhaler), Nicotrol Nasal Spray (nicotine nasal spray),] may be approved for individuals who meet the following criteria:

I. Individual has a diagnosis of nicotine dependence;

AND

II. Individual is 18 years of age or older for, Nicotrol inhaler and Nicotrol Nasal Spray;

OR

III. Individual is 17 years of age or older for Chantix or Apo-Varenicline;

AND

IV. Individual has had a trial

of and inadequate response or intolerance to one of the following agents for smoking cessation. Medication samples/coupons/discount cards are excluded from consideration as a trial.:

A. Bupropion SR; **OR**

- B. Nicotine gum; **OR**
- C. Nicotine patches; **OR**
- D. Nicotine lozenges.

Key References:

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2. DailyMed. Package inserts. U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health website. <http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/about.cfm>. Accessed: September 9, 2022.
3. DrugPoints® System [electronic version]. Truven Health Analytics, Greenwood Village, CO. Updated periodically.
4. Lexi-Comp ONLINE™ with AHFS™, Hudson, Ohio: Lexi-Comp, Inc.; 2022; Updated periodically.
5. Clinical Guidelines for Prescribing Pharmacotherapy for Smoking Cessation. December 2012. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. <http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/clinicians-providers/guidelines-recommendations/tobacco/prescrib.html>. Accessed September 9, 2022.
6. Ebbert JO, Hatsukami DK, Croghan IT, et.al. Combination varenicline and bupropion SR for tobacco-dependence treatment in cigarette smokers: a randomized trial. *JAMA*. 2014 Jan 8; 311(2):155-63.
7. Fiore MC, Jaen CR, Baker TB, et al. Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence: 2008 Update. Clinical Practice Guideline. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Public Health Service. May 2008. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK63952/>. Accessed September 9, 2022.
8. Koegelenberg CF, Noor F, Bateman ED, et.al. Efficacy of varenicline combined with nicotine replacement therapy vs varenicline alone for smoking cessation: a randomized clinical trial. *JAMA*. 2014 Jul;312(2): 155-61.
9. Rigotti NA. Pharmacotherapy for smoking cessation in adults. UpToDate. Last updated July 9, 2019. Accessed September 9, 2022.
10. Siu ALA. Annals of internal medicine: Behavioral and Pharmacotherapy Interventions for Tobacco Smoking Cessation in Adults, Including Pregnant Women: U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement. *American College of Physicians*; 10/2015; 163:622.
11. Leone FT, Zhang Y, Evers-Casey S, et.al. Initiating pharmacologic treatment in tobacco-dependent adults. An official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*. 2020 Jul 15;202(2): e5-e31.

Federal and state laws or requirements, contract language, and Plan utilization management programs or policies may take precedence over the application of this clinical criteria.

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