



# Coverage of Tobacco Cessation

## For Medicaid Patients

Comprehensive coverage includes access to seven medicines, three kinds of counseling, and barrier-free access, such as pre-authorization or stepped therapy.

Medications include nicotine nasal spray, nicotine inhaler, bupropion, varenicline, nicotine replacement gum, nicotine replacement patch, and nicotine replacement lozenge. Some of these medications are over-the-counter but need a prescription for insurance coverage.

People can also get counseling in three ways: individual, group, or phone. Counseling works well with medicine, but it can also help on its own.

Some plans may enforce policies that inadvertently discourage smokers from utilizing these benefits. Any policy or procedure that creates barriers should be avoided.

Smokers are more likely to be successful with access to all cessation tools and removal of barriers. Quitting is hard. Let's do what we can to make it easier.

## Did you know?

The Medicaid population is more than **TWICE** as likely to be smokers than those on private insurance.

Georgia spends **\$699 MILLION** annually on Medicaid costs related to tobacco use!

If just 1% of the Medicaid population quit smoking, it would **SAVE** Georgia \$38 million the following year.

**Let's remove barriers for tobacco cessation for those who need it most!**

## Support HB506

# In Georgia

Medications	2024 Coverage	Counseling	2024 Coverage	Barriers	2024 Coverage
NRT Gum	YES	Individual	Varies	Copayments	Yes
NRT Patch	YES	Group	Varies	Prior Authorization	Varies
NRT Lozenge	YES			Required Counseling	Varies
NRT Inhaler	YES			Stepped Care Therapy	Varies
NRT Nasal Spray	YES			Duration Limits	Varies
Bupropion	YES			Annual Limits	Varies
Varenicline	YES			Lifetime Limits	No

**“Varies” means that benefits are different between Georgia Medicaid, Fee for Service, and Managed Care. HB 506 would bring parity between all.**