

Health Insurance Coverage of Drugs Used to Treat Tobacco Use -- October 2006

Cost of 30 day supply of medication

Product	Medicaid ¹ (MassHealth)	Medicare ²	Partners Plus ³ (Medco)	BCBS ^{4,5}	HPHC ^{5,6}	Tufts ^{5,7}
Nicotine replacement therapy						
Skin Patch (<i>Nicoderm & others</i>) 21 mg, 14 mg, or 7 mg	\$1 Generic \$3 Brand ¹	Not covered	Not covered	Level 2	Brand: \$36.11 Generic: \$7.34	Not covered
Gum (<i>Nicorette</i>) 2 mg, 4 mg	\$1 Generic \$3 Brand ¹	Not covered	Not covered	Level 2	4mg (#100): \$38.06	Not covered
Lozenge (<i>Commit</i>) 2 mg, 4 mg	\$3 Brand	Not covered	Not covered	Level 2	Not in formulary as of 10/20/06	Not covered
Vapor inhaler (<i>Nicotrol inhaler</i>)	\$3 Brand (Prior approval required)	Should be covered – depends on plan ²	\$20	Level 2	Tier 3	Not covered
Nasal spray (<i>Nicotrol NS</i>)	\$3 Brand (Prior approval required)	Should be covered – depends on plan ²	\$20	Level 2	Tier 3	Not covered
Non-Nicotine therapy						
Bupropion SR (<i>Zyban, Wellbutrin SR</i>) (generic now available)	\$1 Generic \$3 Brand ¹	Should be covered – depends on plan ²	Generic: \$10	Level 1	Generic: Tier 1 Brand: Tier 3	Generic: Level 1
Varenicline (<i>Chantix</i>)	\$3 Brand	Should be covered – depends on plan ²	\$20	Not covered as of 10/20/06	Tier 3	Not in formulary as of 10/20/06
Nortriptyline	\$1 Generic	Not covered for smoking	Generic: \$8.26	Level 1	Generic: Tier 1	Generic: Level 1
Clonidine	\$1 Generic	Not covered for smoking	0.1 mg 4.98 0.2 mg \$6.12 0.3 mg \$7.33	Level 1	Generic: Tier 1	Generic: Level 1

1 - Medicaid covers brand name only if medically necessary due to allergy, etc.

2 - Medicare covers FDA-approved Rx-only smoking cessation drugs. Coverage varies by plan chosen. Medicare does not cover OTC smoking cessation drugs.

3 - Partners Plus (Medco) drug prices found at <http://www.medco.com> (note: user must register and sign in to obtain price information) on 10/20/06

4 - BCBS drug levels from http://www.bluecrossma.com/pharmacy/en_US/pharmacyIndex.jsp on 10/20/06

5 - Tufts, HPHC, & BCBS plans price Rx drugs on a level, or tier, basis. Medication cost is based on the drug level (1 = least expensive) and an individual's coverage.

6 - HPHC drug tiers from http://www.harvardpilgrim.org/portal/page?_pageid=213.210394&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL on 10/20/06. All prices are retail value.

7 - Tufts drug levels from https://www.advancrx.com/advpcsrx_pmwroot/pmwroot/Formulary/00654/IndexFormSearch.jsp?com=tufts on 10/20/06

All information collected 10/20/06 for the benefit and convenience of Partners Healthcare primary care physicians. It is an individual's responsibility to understand their prescription drug benefit and co-payment plan.