

## Medi-Cal Does it Again: Quitting Smoking Just Got Easier!



Effective July 1, the medication Chantix was added as a benefit for Medi-Cal plan participants.

- Beneficiaries can receive up to 12 weeks per therapy.
- A maximum of 2 courses of therapy per 12 month period. No break between therapies required.
- This medicine is to be part of a comprehensive smoking cessation treatment which includes behavioral modification support.

• Pharmacists do not need to obtain or verify a letter or certificate of counseling prior to dispensing to fee-for-service participants\*. This means less wait for patients to access their medicine as prescribed by their health care provider, and fewer barriers for support in quitting.

*\*Medi-Cal Managed Health Care Plans have yet to remove the certificate of counseling requirements. We will keep you informed about any changes. Please stay tuned!*

The medication update is in the [Medi-Cal Update-Pharmacy June 2011](#)

The California Smokers' Helpline has been proven in clinical trials to double a smoker's chance of success. Research has shown that counseling and pharmacotherapy are independently effective, but that patients have the best odds of success when they use both in combination.

Please feel free to share this news.

For questions or more information, please contact Sarah Planche at [sarah.planche@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:sarah.planche@cdph.ca.gov).