

# CAHPS® Tip Sheet

## Medical Assistance With Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation (MSC)

### Measure Description

The following components of this measure assess different facets of providing medical assistance with smoking and tobacco use cessation:

- **Advising Smokers and Tobacco Users to Quit:** A rolling average represents the percentage of patients 18 years of age and older who are current smokers or tobacco users and who received advice to quit during the measurement year.
- **Discussing Cessation Medications:** A rolling average represents the percentage of patients 18 years of age and older who are current smokers or tobacco users and who discussed or were recommended cessation medications during the measurement year.
- **Discussing Cessation Strategies:** A rolling average represents the percentage of patients 18 years of age and older who are current smokers or tobacco users and who discussed or were provided cessation methods or strategies during the measurement year.

This is self-reported by patients and collected annually as part of the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers Systems (CAHPS®) Survey.

### Survey Questions

- Do you now smoke cigarettes or use tobacco every day, some days, or not at all?
- How often were you advised to quit smoking or using tobacco by a doctor or other health provider in your plan?
- How often was medication recommended or discussed by a doctor or health provider to assist you with quitting smoking or using tobacco?
- How often did your doctor or health provider discuss or provide methods and strategies other than medication to assist you with quitting smoking or using tobacco?

### Ways to Improve Patient Satisfaction

- Advise patients to quit smoking, screen for tobacco use status at each encounter, document it, and submit all correct billing codes.
- Offer at least a minimal intervention to every tobacco user, this can increase overall abstinence rates. Engage patients and family, as appropriate.
- Consider treatment options for patients trying to quit. Counseling and medication together is more effective than either medication or counseling alone. Consider both for patients trying to quit.
- Refer patients to 1-800-QUIT-NOW, or directly to your state's Quitline, resources: [cdc.gov/tobacco/features/quitlines/index.html](https://cdc.gov/tobacco/features/quitlines/index.html).
- Review Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) resources: [cdc.gov/tobacco/quit\\_smoking/cessation/index.html](https://cdc.gov/tobacco/quit_smoking/cessation/index.html).
- Review National Cancer Institute resources: [smokefree.gov/help-others-quit/health-professionals/resources-health-professionals](https://smokefree.gov/help-others-quit/health-professionals/resources-health-professionals).

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