



# State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE EILEEN S. NAUGHTON *District 21*

*Deputy Chair, Committee on Finance*

*Joint Committee on Healthcare Oversight*

March 21, 2012.

To all Rhode Island Health Care Providers:

As you all know, tobacco is a serious addiction that often requires assistance before it can be successfully overcome. While cessation services are available to all Rhode Islanders, many people, especially those who desire to quit smoking, are unaware of the best way to access them. As Co-Chair of the Statewide Tobacco Cessation Committee, I am asking that you help spread the word about these valuable resources and the best way for each patient to access them.

**For insured patients**, all major health insurance plans now offer cessation services consistent with the most current clinical practice guideline as determined by the US Department of Health and Human Services. The coverage includes the following with co-payments:

- Individual and group counseling up to 16-half hour sessions per year
- Quit medications: Bupropion, (Wellbutrin or Zyban) and Varenicline (Chantix)
- Nicotine Replacement Therapy: gum, patch, lozenge, inhaler, nasal spray.

Treatment limits are determined by individual's physician, i.e., extension of prescription drug coverage.

**For patients with Medicaid**, the tobacco cessation benefit for RI's Medicaid populations includes:

Fee-For-Service Program: (Connect Care Choice and other fee-for-service members)

- Unlimited individual counseling
- Prior Primary Care Practitioner (PCP) authorization required for quit medication (generics only): Bupropion (Wellbutrin or Zyban), Nicotine Replacement Therapy: gum, lozenge, patch, inhaler, nasal spray. Varenicline (Chantix) 90-day supply, one month break, additional 90-day supply as determined medically necessary by PCP.

Managed Care Program:(RIte Care, Rhody Health Partners, Neighborhood Health Plan of RI, United Healthcare)

- Unlimited individual counseling
- Quit medication (unlimited generics only): Bupropion (Wellbutrin or Zyban),
- Nicotine Replacement Therapy: gum, lozenge, patch, inhaler, nasal spray.
- Prior Primary Care Practitioner (PCP) authorization for Varenicline (Chantix) 90-day supply, additional 90 day supply as determined medically necessary by PCP.

In addition to the above coverage, the Smokers' Quitline 1-800-Quit-Now provides free multi-session telephone counseling and self-help materials.

Sharing this valuable information with your patients can have a significantly positive impact on the health of our state. Together, we can ensure that all those who wish to quit smoking, have access to the help they need.

Sincerely,

Representative Eileen S. Naughton

Co-Chair, Statewide Tobacco Cessation Committee

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