

SUBJECT: Marijuana Cessation Counseling Reimbursement

SUBMITTED BY: Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians

REFERRED TO: 2025 American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 20

- 1 WHEREAS, the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) passed a resolution in
2 2014 stating support for education on the harmful effects of marijuana use (1); and
- 3 WHEREAS, marijuana is the second most commonly used mind-altering substance in the United
4 States, widely legalized for medicinal *and* recreational use (2); and
- 5 WHEREAS, 19 million people met the criteria for marijuana use disorder in 2022 (2); and
- 6 WHEREAS, the National Institute on Drug Abuse identifies marijuana as an addictive drug and
7 marijuana products have been shown to cause dependence, including the potential for
8 withdrawal effects (2); and
- 9 WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will cover 2 tobacco cessation
10 attempts per year, with each attempt including a maximum of four intermediate or
11 intensive sessions, with the total annual benefit covering up to 8 sessions in a 12-month
12 period with the codes 99406 and 99407 (3); and
- 13 WHEREAS, Medicare covers these services in both inpatient and outpatient settings and now
14 waves the deductible or copayment for patients, with net zero cost to patients (3); and
- 15 WHEREAS, tobacco cessation has significant health risk reduction benefits warranting the
16 incentive for providers to counsel on cessation; and
- 17 WHEREAS, marijuana, although not yet as heavily researched as tobacco, has still been shown to
18 also have long term negative health consequences including impacts on lung health, mental
19 health (psychosis, schizophrenia, depression), cardiovascular effects (stroke, heart attack,
20 arrhythmia), gastrointestinal issues (cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome, PUD),
21 concentration, memory, fetal complications in pregnancy, and cancer risk (throat, head and
22 neck) (4) now, therefore be it
- 23 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) encourages
24 further research on marijuana and its potential health benefits and risks; and, be it further
- 25 RESOLVED, that the advocate for legislation requiring insurance companies to reimburse
26 providers for marijuana cessation counseling; and, be it further
- 27 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP advocate that CMS reimburse physicians for marijuana cessation
28 counseling in a similar way to tobacco cessation counseling; and, be it further

29 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP submit this resolution to the AOA for consideration.

FINAL ACTION: APPROVED as of April 2, 2025

References:

1. ACOFP COD 2014 Resolution 7. https://www.acofp.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/about/congress_of_delegates/2014-congress/2014-resolutions/resolution-7-recreational-marijuana-use.pdf?Status=Master&sfvrsn=26a31c5b_7
2. Sharp, Amelia. *How to Quit Smoking Marijuana*. Nov. 15, 2024. American Addiction Centers. <https://americanaddictioncenters.org/marijuana-rehab/quit-marijuana>.
3. *Smoking & Tobacco Use Cessation Counseling*. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/ncacal-decision-memo.aspx?proposed=N&NCAId=130#:~:text=Minimal%20counseling%20is%20already%20covered,in%20a%2012%20month%20period>.
4. *Cannabis (Marijuana)*. Sept 2024. National Institute of Drug Abuse. <https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/cannabis-marijuana#short-term-health-cannabis>.