

Tobacco Use Cessation Counseling Documentation Tips

Tobacco Use Cessation Counseling:

Below are three (3) examples of codeable smoking cessation procedures notes.

- **Procedure note:**
Notes: Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug Cessation Counseling:
I spent 10 minutes counseling patient on the importance of tobacco, alcohol, and drug cessation. Discussed the detrimental health effects of each.
- **Tobacco Cessation Counseling:** I have spoken with this patient regarding smoking cessation. This discussion involved options regarding how to quit smoking, and I have spent 5 minutes discussing this with the patient. I have had face-to-face discussion with the patient regarding the above.
- **Procedure Note:**
Special discussion: Advised patient that smoking may lead to serious disease such as but not limited to COPD and cancer. Patient understood and will attempt to take proper actions. Smoking cessation counseling provided. Total time spent: 7 minutes.

A few other helpful hints:

- We recommend avoiding the use of time ranges and verbiage such as “approximately” “around” or “about”. Documenting a specific number of minutes is always best.
- Please keep in mind that per CPT requirements, smoking cessation cannot be billed unless there is greater than 3 minutes of counseling spent.
- The coders will also verify the current smoking/tobacco use status of the patient as documented in the social history within the ED record before this CPT is coded.