

Provider Bulletin

Molina Healthcare of California

molinahealthcare.com/members/ca/en-us/health-care-professionals/home.aspx

February 13, 2026

- Imperial
- Riverside
- San Bernardino
- Los Angeles
- Orange
- Sacramento
- San Diego

Tobacco Use Screening & Cessation Intervention

This is an advisory notification to Molina Healthcare of California (MHC) network providers applicable to all lines of business.

What you need to know:

Beginning **Measurement Year 2026**, the **NCQA HEDIS** program has implemented a new quality measure: [Tobacco Use Screening and Cessation Intervention \(TSC E\)](#) (see page 31 of 2026 HEDIS Measure Guide). This measure aligns with population-based tobacco screening practices across health systems and is applicable to MHC product lines.

MHC is committed to supporting providers in screening for tobacco use and ensuring members who use tobacco products receive evidence-based cessation interventions.

Measure Overview (TSC-E – New for MY 2026)

1. Tobacco Use Screening

Providers must **screen all patients ages 12 and older** for any tobacco use, including:

- Smoking (combustible tobacco)
- Smokeless tobacco
- Electronic nicotine delivery systems (e-cigarettes, vapes, pods)

2. Cessation Intervention

For patients who screen positive for tobacco use, a cessation intervention must be provided.

Accepted interventions include:

- **Counseling**
 - Brief cessation counseling
 - Individual or group counseling sessions
 - Referral to state or digital cessation programs
- **FDA-Approved Medications**
 - Nicotine replacement therapy (NRT): patch, gum, lozenge, nasal spray, inhaler
 - Varenicline or bupropion

Molina covers all FDA-approved cessation medications for members.

Provider Action

To meet the requirements of the TSC-E measure and enhance the health of our members, Molina Healthcare asks all providers to:

- ✓ **Screen**
Conduct tobacco-use screening at every visit for patients 12 years of age and older.

- ✓ **Document & Code**

Definitions

Positive Tobacco User – Persons who were screened for tobacco use and had a documented positive result. Any of the following, meet criteria:

- Tobacco Use Screening Value Set **with Yes Value Set.**
- LOINC code 72166-2 **with Positive Tobacco Use Status Value Set.**

Negative Tobacco User – Persons who were screened for tobacco use and had a documented negative result. Any of the following, meet criteria:

- Tobacco Use Screening Value Set with No Value Set.
- LOINC code 72166-2 with Negative Tobacco Use Status Value Set.

Continued Page 2



Referral Resources for Providers

Molina Healthcare continues its partnership with **Kick It California (KIC)** and the **Asian Smokers' Quitline** to offer multi-language counseling and quit support.

Kick It California (KIC)

- English: 1-800-300-8086
- Spanish: 1-800-600-8191

Asian Smokers' Quitline

- Chinese (Cantonese/Mandarin): 1-800-838-8917
- Korean: 1-800-556-5564
- Vietnamese: 1-800-778-8440

Web-Based Referral System

Providers can directly refer Molina patients via online: kickitca.org/patient-referral

Providers will receive **immediate confirmation** of the referral.

Molina Incentive Program

Molina Healthcare—through partnership with KIC—offers qualifying members a **10-day supply of nicotine patches** while they obtain additional cessation medication from their provider.

Provider Action (continued)

Relevant Measures

Measurement 1: Tobacco-use screening:

Persons who were screened for tobacco use and identified as either a positive or negative tobacco user (see Definitions above) during the measurement period.

Measurement 2: Cessation intervention.

Persons who received tobacco cessation intervention during the measurement period or 180 days prior to the measurement period. The following meet criteria:

- Persons 12-17 years of age who received tobacco cessation counseling (Tobacco Use Cessation Counseling Value Set; ICD-10-CM code Z71.6*) during the measurement period or in the 180 days prior to the measurement period.
- Persons 18 years of age and older who received tobacco cessation counseling (Tobacco Use Cessation Counseling Value Set; ICD-10-CM code Z71.6*) or dispensed pharmacotherapy intervention (Tobacco Use Cessation Medications List) during the measurement period or 180 days prior to the measurement period.

✓ Provide Intervention

At minimum, provide one of the following for tobacco users

- Brief counseling
- Referral to KICK It CA quit line
- Referral to individual/group counseling ([List of support groups and classes](#))
- Prescribe FDA-approved cessation medications

✓ Refer

Encourage the use of Kick It California multilingual quit line coaching resource.

What if you need assistance?

If you have any questions regarding the notification, please contact your [Molina Provider Relations Representative](#).