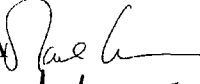



MEMORANDUM

To: Sen. Claire Ayer, Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
Sen. Jane Kitchel, Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Rep. Martha Heath, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations
Rep. Michael Fisher, Chair, House Committee on Health Care
Rep. Ann Pugh, Chair, House Committee on Human Services

From: Mark Larson, Commissioner, DVHA 
Harry Chen, Commissioner, VDH 

Cc: Doug Racine, Secretary, Agency of Human Services

Date: December 24, 2013

Re: Smoking Cessation Counseling Services

This memo is to notify you that as of January 1, 2014, the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) will begin offering coverage of face-to-face smoking cessation counseling services to all Medicaid beneficiaries. DVHA has applied for a state plan amendment to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. This coverage expansion is anticipated to be cost neutral based on the positive long-term direct and indirect impacts it will have on the Medicaid population and in aiding individual beneficiaries in their efforts to quit smoking. Smoking cessation counseling was previously only a Medicaid covered service available to pregnant women.

If you should have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.