

OHIP Billing: Smoking Cessation

Quick Reference Guide

This short guide will help you understand how to bill for smoking cessation, one of the most common out-of-basket codes.

What are the smoking cessation management codes?

When managing smoking cessation patients, physicians can bill for three incentive fee codes; E079, K039, and Q042.

Which payment enrollment models (PEMs) are eligible to bill smoking cessation codes?

E079 and K039 can be billed by all physicians however, the Q042 is only available for those under the following PEM models: FHO, FHG, FHN, CCM.

What are the requirements for the initial smoking cessation discussion?

Service rendered to a patient who currently smokes by the primary care physician is considered most responsible for the patient's ongoing care.

Fee code	Description	Fee Value	Limit
E079	Smoking cessation: Initial discussion with patient	\$16.00 (in-person/video) \$13.60 (phone)	Once every 365 days

Billing Requirements

- Physicians must ask the patient the 3 following questions:
 - Are you a smoker?
 - Do you plan on quitting
 - If yes, when do you plan on quitting by?
- E079 is an add-on code that must be billed with: A001, A003, A004, A005, A006, A007, A008, A905, K005, K007, K013, K017, K130, K131, K132, P003, P004, P005, P008, W001, W002, W003, W004, W008, W010, W102, W104, W107, W109 or W121.
- Physicians must complete a smoking cessation flow sheet. [Download our flow sheet here.](#)

Smoking Cessation Follow-up

What are the smoking cessation management codes?

The smoking cessation follow-up service rendered by a primary care physician can be billed up to 2 times in the 12 months following E079 that is dedicated to a discussion of smoking cessation.

Fee code	Description	Fee Value	Limit
K039	Smoking cessation follow up visit	\$33.45	2x annually

Note: This must be a dedicated smoking cessation counselling session (visit is not time-based).

Billing Requirements

- Must be billed in the 12 months following E079
- If the physician is in one of the following PEM models: FHO, FHG, FHN, or CCM, K039 can be billed alongside Q042 for rostered patients.

Need Help?

DoctorCare can create a list of patients who are eligible to be recalled for the K039+Q042 visit.

Smoking Cessation Counselling Fee

How do I bill for smoking cessation counselling?

Q042 is an incentive paid alongside the K039 for rostered patients. Physicians can only use this fee code under the following PEM models: FHO, FHG, FHN, CCM.

Fee code	Description	Fee Value	Limit
Q042	Smoking cessation counselling fee	\$7.50	2x annually

Recommendation

- Create a superbill to always bill the Q042 with the K039.

I had smoking cessation discussions but forgot to bill. How can I avoid this?

We recommend creating reminders for yourself in your EMR indicating that the patient is a smoker.

For PS Suite users: DoctorCare can add on a smoking cessation toolbar to remind you to bill after each visit.



Steps in Recalling Patients

I do the initial discussion but have trouble recalling patients for the follow up discussion, how can I get more patients to come back?

1. If the patient is receptive during the initial discussion, book a follow up visit with them before they leave the clinic.
2. If you prescribe medications, book a follow up visit to see how they are doing and for medication refill (if necessary).
3. Sign up with DoctorCare and receive a full list of patients for whom you have billed an E079. You can recall them for the K039.

What are the common error and explanation codes?

M1 – Max fee allowed for these services has been reached

These codes can be billed a limited amount of times per year. If you bill more than the specified amount within 365 days of a previously processed fee code, it will be processed at \$0.

A36 – Claimed by another practitioner

The smoking cessation fee was billed by another practitioner and thus processed at \$0.

PAA – No initial fee previously paid

This occurs when a K039/Q042 is billed without an E079 within the previous 365 days. To reconcile, bill an E079 and the visit code.

DF—The corresponding fee code has not been claimed or was approved at zero

The E079 or the K039 codes were billed with a code that it cannot be billed with.