**Change in CMS billing rules supports tobacco cessation!**

Previously, Tobacco Treatment Specialists or medical assistants providing tobacco cessation were required to be present in the room with the treating physician. This type of service is now reclassified as requiring “General Supervision”, whereby physicians should furnish overall direction and control over the service but are not required to be physically present during the performance of the services or immediately available in the office suite.

This means that medical practices can be structured to provide cessation services at every visit and allow Tobacco Treatment Specialists or medical assistants to be reimbursed. In mid-sized to large practices the added reimbursement will pay for the added staff. Go to the XL Worksheet [here](http://www.edwardanselmmd.com/s/Fee-for-service-reimbursement-model.xlsx) to do the math for your practice. Below please find full relevant CMS rule.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/calendar-year-cy-2023-medicare-physician-fee-schedule-final-rule> which includes the following-

Physicians may enter into contractual arrangements with auxiliary personnel[2] to provide care that would ordinarily be provided incident to physicians’ services. Auxiliary personnel include the staff of another provider or supplier type, such as home health agencies, qualified home infusion therapy suppliers, or entities that furnish ambulance services. The auxiliary personnel must still be able to provide the necessary staff and technology (including services performed via telehealth). In such instances, the provider or supplier would seek payment for any services provided by the auxiliary personnel from the billing practitioner and would not submit claims to Medicare for such services.

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<http://www.edwardanselmmd.com/reimbursement-for-tobacco-cessation>