

**Current Status:** The Medicare Stop Smoking Program is no longer accepting participants. MSSP was a limited scope demonstration project conducted between October 2002 and October 2004. It was intended to compare the impact of offering three different types of benefits for smoking cessation services on quit rates. The three benefit options are:

- Reimbursement for provider counseling only
- Reimbursement for provider counseling + FDA-approved prescription or nicotine replacement pharmacotherapy
- A telephone counseling quitline + reimbursement for nicotine replacement therapy
- Usual care (smoking cessation information)

All data related to MSSP has now been collected and is being analyzed. It is expected that results from the demonstration will be available soon.

**Background:** The MSSP demonstration went live in October 2002. Over the twelve month enrollment period 7,350 Medicare beneficiaries voluntarily participated in the demonstration from seven states--Alabama, Florida, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Wyoming. All participants had access to MSSP benefits for one year from the date of enrollment. Although enrollment fell below anticipated levels there should be sufficient participation to analyze the results.

Each participant provided baseline information at the time of enrollment and was asked to complete follow-up questionnaires at 6-months and 12-months. The response rate for 6-month follow-up was approximately 64%. Early estimates of self-reported quit rates indicate that those assigned to the quitline intervention fared better, overall, than others, with a quit rate at 32.5%. The usual care intervention (information only) has the lowest reported quit rate, so far, at 13%. Provider counseling, alone is at 19% and provider counseling, plus pharmacotherapy, is being reported at 23.6%. It must be understood that until these rates are compared to the rates reported in the 12-month questionnaire they are only reflective of the earliest information and should not be used as an indicator of program success or failure.

Data received from the 12-month questionnaire are still being analyzed and will be compared to data collected in the 6-month questionnaire.

**Contact Information:** (See downloads area below for more information: Contact Information)