

MEDI-CAL PROVIDER EDUCATION

SUBJECT: Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)

No.104

PURPOSE: To provide answers for frequently asked question as it pertains to the Medi-Cal Benefit under **Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)**

DEFINITION:

SBIRT is the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment for misuse of alcohol program, which is administered to Medi-Cal Managed Plan (MMP) members ages 18 or older who misuse alcohol.

Where can I receive training on SBIRT?

To learn more about SBIRT, all providers must read the All Plan Letter (APL) 14-004, dated February 10, 2014. Also below are links to information on how to obtain training & education.

4 hour SBIRT training is available:

- <http://www.uclaisap.org/sbirt/>
- <http://www.sbirtraining.com/>

Why SBIRT?

In May 2013, the United States Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) updated its alcohol screening recommendation. The USPSTF recommends that clinicians screen adults 18 years or older for alcohol misuse and provide persons engaged in risky or hazardous drinking with brief behavioral counseling interventions to reduce alcohol misuse and/or referral to mental health and/or alcohol use disorder services, as medically necessary.

When did this requirement start?

Coverage of SBIRT services by the Medi-Cal program took effect January 1, 2014.

Who is making this a requirement?

The **Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)**, through the All Plan Letter (APL) 14-004, dated February 10, 2014.

How will I be reimbursed for this?

Regal will process your claim through its normal channels for claim reimbursement.

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For whom do I administer SBIRT?

Medi-Cal Members who are age 18 and older

How do I administer SBIRT?

When a Medi-Cal Care1st member, age 18 and older, answers "yes" to the alcohol question in the Staying Health Assessment (SHA) (considered a "pre-screen" in the APL 14-004), or at any time the PCP identifies a potential alcohol misuse problem, he/she must offer to administer the "Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test" (AUDIT, not AUDIT-C). This is to be administered by the rendering provider, where the physician will ask the questions, and document the member's responses. The responses are then scored. If the score is 8 or above, there is an indication that further discussion is to be had about alcohol use disorder and treatment recommendations.

How often can I administer SBIRT?

- Screening (AUDIT Tool) can be done **1 time per year**
- Brief Interventions can be done **3 times per year**
- Referrals to Treatment can be done **when it is appropriate** for the member

Where can I get the AUDIT SCREENING TOOL?

The "AUDIT" screening tool can be found under Provider Materials and Forms or by clicking here http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/AUDIT_screener_for_alcohol.pdf

What if the member needs something more?

In the event a member's needs are beyond the SBIRT or because the member refuses to do the SBIRT, a provider can and should refer the member to the Substance Use Disorder Services in the county the member lives in for treatment. To make referrals, click here for directories of SUD services in your area or by contacting the SUD Resource Center at (800) 879-2772

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