



TO: Physicians, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), Physician Assistants (PAs), Outpatient General Hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

RE: Reminder: Coverage for Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Services in Primary Care

The Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) wishes to remind enrolled providers about **coverage for Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) services under the HUSKY Health program.** Any guidance provided in this bulletin supports and does not supersede provider bulletins PB 2015-79 Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) in Primary Care and PB 2016-81 Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Performed at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).

Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) is a comprehensive, integrated approach to the delivery of early intervention and treatment services for persons with, or at-risk for, substance use disorders including alcohol. The goal of SBIRT is to provide early intervention services to at-risk individuals before more serious problems develop.

**For smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling, providers should refer to procedure codes 99406 (smoking and tobacco use cessation visit; intermediate, greater than 3 minutes up to 10 minutes) and 99407 (intensive, greater than 10 minutes).*

SBIRT Services

- **Screening** assesses the severity of substance use and identifies the appropriate level of treatment.
- **Brief intervention** focuses on increasing insight and awareness regarding substance use and motivation toward behavioral change.
- **Referral to treatment** provides those identified as needing more extensive treatment with access to specialty care.

Primary Care Providers

Payment for SBIRT services is available for all primary care providers. Primary care providers include physicians, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), and physician assistants (PAs).

SBIRT services should be billed using one of the following SBI Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes:

Code	Description	Maximum Fee
99408	Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured screening (e.g., AUDIT, DAST), and brief intervention (SBI) services; 15 to 30 minutes	\$22.40
99409	Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured screening (e.g., AUDIT, DAST), and brief intervention (SBI) services; greater than 30 minutes	\$43.01

Evaluation and Management (E & M)/office visit codes and SBI codes may be billed on the same date of service. If billed on the same date, modifier 25 – *Significant, separately identifiable evaluation and management services by the same physician or other qualified health care professional on the same day of the procedure or other service* should be appended to the E & M code to identify SBIRT as a distinct and separate service. Documentation for SBIRT must reflect that it is a separate service. SBIRT services cannot be used to up code the level of E & M service.

Outpatient Hospitals

The Department of Social Services (DSS) considers procedure codes 99408 and 99409 to be services only to be provided by a professional. Outpatient hospitals should continue to follow the CMAP's Addendum B to determine the method of payment for all outpatient services. CMAP's Addendum B can be accessed via www.ctdssmap.com by selecting the "Hospital Modernization" Web page.

Outpatient Hospitals – Professional Services

Physicians, APRNs, and PAs are encouraged to render SBIRT services in the outpatient hospital setting. Providers rendering SBIRT services in the outpatient hospital must follow the guidelines in this bulletin titled "Primary Care Providers".

Medical Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

Medical FQHCs are strongly encouraged to continue performing SBIRT services as a supplemental service to an established medical visit. Medical FQHCs will be reimbursed their encounter rate for SBIRT services performed in conjunction with the medical encounter. There is no supplemental payment for SBIRT services performed in a medical FQHC setting. Consistent with the Requirements for Payment of Federally Qualified Health Centers, the screening portion only of the SBIRT service may be performed by a licensed practical nurse (LPN).

Encounters for SBIRT services performed in a medical FQHC setting should be coded using the appropriate SBI code along with Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code T1015 - *Clinic Visit/encounter, all inclusive*.

FQHCs should also record other appropriate codes for any services rendered during the medical visit. The Department will be collecting data on these valuable primary care services.

Note: SBIRT services should never be added onto an established behavioral health visit billed to the HUSKY Health Program. If specialized behavioral health intervention is needed because of a positive scoring of a SBIRT screening, a referral to an appropriate behavioral health provider should be made.

Documentation

The provider must document the screening tool used, the score obtained, the time spent and the action taken as result of the screen (including any subsequent referrals to specialized care) in the HUSKY Health member's medical record. The name and credentials of the practitioner(s) who provided the service(s) must be included and the note must be signed and dated by those practitioners.

Screening Tools

To maximize the benefit to HUSKY Health members, providers must use validated screening tools and evidence-based practice guidelines.

For a list of validated screening tools, evidence-based brief intervention guidelines and effective referral to treatment practices, please access the following Web site:

<http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/clinical-practice/sbirt>

Referral Resources and Supportive Services Information**Referral to Specialty Care**

CT Behavioral Health Partnership's on-line provider directory: www.ctbhp.com

Additional Community Services

CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services: <http://www.ct.gov/dmhas>

Additional SBIRT Resources

CT Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Training Institute: <http://www.ct.gov/dmhas/ctsbirt>