



TO: Physicians, Physician Assistants, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN), Outpatient General Hospitals and Medical Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)

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

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, psychoactive substance use disorders. Providers can quickly assess the severity of substance use and identify 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.

#### Coding and Claims Submission:

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

Screening, brief intervention (SBI) service CPT codes include:

- **99408** Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured screening (eg. AUDIT, DAST), and brief intervention (SBI) services; 15 to 30 minutes
- **99409** greater than 30 minutes

According to the HUSKY Health Primary Care Rate Increase Policy (PB 2014-75 and PB 2015-44), attested primary care providers are eligible for an increased SBI service rate.

Evaluation and Management (E&M) series and SBI codes may be billed on the same date of service. If billed on the same day, modifier 25 should be used to identify SBIRT as a distinct and separate service. The documentation for SBIRT must reflect that it is a separate service. SBIRT services cannot be used to upcode the level of E&M service.

Medical FQHCs and outpatient hospitals are encouraged to render SBIRT services, as well as to include the SBI codes on the claim/encounter, even if SBIRT is not the primary procedure on a given

day. The Department will be collecting data on these valuable primary medical services. SBIRT services rendered in the outpatient hospital setting should be performed in conjunction with a medical clinic or emergency department visit and therefore will not be separately reimbursed. SBI codes should be submitted under one of the following revenue center codes:

- 510 – Clinic
- 515 – Pediatric Clinic
- 450 – Emergency Room
- 456 – Urgent Care

Encounters for SBIRT services rendered in the medical FQHC settings should be coded using the appropriate SBI codes along with the T1015 code and any other appropriate code(s) for other services rendered during that encounter.

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 who provided the service must be included and the note must be dated.

#### Referral Resources and Supportive Services Information:

To maximize the benefit to HUSKY Health clients, 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>

If specialty care is recommended, please access the following Web site to find an enrolled Medicaid provider:



CT Behavioral Health Partnership's on-line provider directory: [www.ctbhp.com](http://www.ctbhp.com)

For additional community services, please refer to the following Web site(s):

DMHAS Website: <http://www.ct.gov/dmhas>

To access additional SBIRT resources and technical assistance, please refer to the following Web site(s):

CT Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Training Institute:

<http://sbirtinstitute.uchc.edu>

<http://www.ct.gov/dmhas/ctsbirt>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: <https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>

