

# Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Guidance Document

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Oregon Health Plan

Version 2 – September 30, 2013

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## Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), Oregon clinics and administrative staff with guidance on implementing screening for alcohol and drug misuse, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT), including coding and billing information and details on the CCO Incentive Measure specifications for the first measurement year (CY 2013). This document will be updated as appropriate to reflect the ongoing changes in policy and regulation.

## Executive Summary

SBIRT services are aimed at preventing the unhealthy consequences of alcohol and drug use among those whose use may not have reached the diagnostic level of a substance use disorder, and to help those with the disease of addiction enter into treatment. SBIRT services can be used in primary care settings and enables health care professionals to systematically screen and assist people who may not be seeking help for a substance use problem, but whose drinking or drug use may cause or complicate their ability to successfully handle health, work, or family issues. For more information on the benefits of SBIRT services, visit [http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/SBIRT\\_Issue\\_Brief.pdf](http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/SBIRT_Issue_Brief.pdf).

For CY 2013, the CCO incentive measure specifications focus on patients ages 18 years and older who have had a qualifying outpatient visit or home visit during the measurement year, and who completed a full, standardized screening tool (e.g., AUDIT, DAST) because they indicated risky or problematic substance use during the brief, annual screen. The full list of AMH-approved evidence based screening tools is included in Appendix A.

Note: The brief annual screen cannot be billed and is not part of the measure specifications for CY 2013.

**Numerator:** Patients in the denominator who completed a full, standardized screening tool as indicated by one of the following CPT or HCPCS codes:

- 99420, with diagnoses code v79.1 or v82.9 – used for patients who received a full screen based on responses to the annual brief screening. There are no time limitations or requirements for this code. This is also used when a brief intervention lasting less than 15 minutes is performed.
- 99408 – used for patients who were screened and received a brief intervention (15-30 mins).
- 99409 – used for patients who were screened and received a brief intervention (> 30 mins).
- G0396 – used for patients who received alcohol and/or substance abuse (other than tobacco) structured assessment and brief intervention (15-30 minutes).
- G0397 – used for patients who received alcohol and/or substance abuse (other than tobacco) structured assessment and brief intervention (>30 minutes).

**Denominator:** Patients ages 18 and older who have had a qualifying visit January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013. Qualifying visits include:

- Office or other outpatient visits: 99201-99205, 99211-99215, 99241-99245
- Home visits: 99341-99345, 99347-99350

- Preventive medicine: 99385-99387, 99395-99397, 99401-99404, 99408, 99409, 99411, 99412, 99420, 99429, G0396, G0397.

## Background

SBIRT stands for screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment. SBIRT is an evidence-based, effective method to intervene in alcohol and drug misuse<sup>1,2</sup> and can successfully reduce healthcare costs.<sup>3</sup>

The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), which makes recommendations about preventive care services for patients, has assigned a “B” recommendation for the SBIRT process. They have found adequate evidence that numerous screening instruments can detect alcohol misuse with acceptable sensitivity and specificity.<sup>4</sup> They’ve also found evidence that brief counseling interventions effectively reduce heavy drinking episodes in adults engaging in risky or hazardous drinking. Combined study results from the USPSTF review suggest that compared to control groups, implementation of SBIRT among adults resulted in the following:

- A reduction in alcohol consumption by 3.6 drinks per week from baseline,
- Twelve percent fewer adults reported heavy drinking episodes, and
- Eleven percent more adults reported drinking less than the recommended limits over a 12-month period.

SBIRT is endorsed by the National Council for Community Behavioral Health Care and the Department of Health & Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

## Overview of SBIRT in Oregon

There have been several SBIRT pilot projects implemented in Oregon, the largest and most well-known being the Oregon SBIRT Primary Care Residency Initiative<sup>5</sup>, situated at OHSU Family Medicine and funded by SAMHSA. This initiative focuses on teaching the SBIRT method to primary care physicians.

As Oregon strives to make a meaningful difference in the health of Oregon communities, SBIRT has been identified as an incentive measure for Oregon’s CCOs, tied to incentive funding. Additional information

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<sup>1</sup> Madras BK, Compton WM, Avula D et al. Screening, brief interventions, referral to treatment (SBIRT) for illicit drug and alcohol use at multiple healthcare sites: Comparison at intake and six months later. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 2009; 280-295.

<sup>2</sup> Bien, T. H., Miller, W. R., & Tonigan, J. S. (1993). Brief intervention for alcohol problems: A review. *Addiction*, 88, 315–335

<sup>3</sup> Quanbeck A, Lang K, Enami K, & Brown RL. (2010). A cost-benefit analysis of Wisconsin's screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment program: adding the employer's perspective. *State Medical Society of Wisconsin*, Feb; 109(1):9-14.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. (September, 2012). Behavioral counseling after screening for alcohol misuse in primary care. Retrieved July 22, 2013 from [www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf12/alc misuse/alcomisart.htm](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf12/alc misuse/alcomisart.htm)

<sup>5</sup> [www.sbirtoregon.org](http://www.sbirtoregon.org)

about the CCO incentive measures is available online at <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/Pages/CCO-Baseline-Data.aspx> and on page 9 below.

OHA's Transformation Center is establishing and coordinating learning collaboratives to create opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and networking, identifying and sharing information on evidence-based best practices and emerging best practices, and helping advance innovative strategies in all areas of health care transformation. The first Statewide CCO Learning Collaborative with the CCO Medical Directors is focusing on SBIRT and the other CCO incentive measures.

Screening for substance use issues is also a core component of Oregon's Patient-Centered Primary Care Home Program criteria for recognition<sup>6</sup>. To become recognized as a primary care home, clinics must routinely provide assessment of mental health, substance use or developmental conditions and provide appropriate treatment, referral and care coordination for these conditions. SBIRT is a recommended tool for substance use screening, and the Patient-Centered Primary Care Institute has a variety of tools and resources available to help clinics adopt the SBIRT model<sup>7</sup>.

The Oregon Public Health Division (PHD) is also working to develop a practice improvement training to increase utilization of SBIRT within the context of adolescent well care visits.

The Oregon Health Authority is working towards standardizing the billing and payment policies across all payer sources, until that goal is reached, great care must be taken to ensure compliance in service delivery and claims submission to different payer types (e.g. Medicare and Commercial).

Identifying ways to secure payment for providing SBIRT services will be a key strategy to promote widespread implementation of SBIRT services across Oregon. SBIRT coding and billing policies and regulations are a work in progress and coding and coverage policy varies based on payer. SBIRT is a covered benefit for all Oregon Medicaid patients and for a wide-range of provider types. Under the current billing policies and regulations, Oregon providers may be eligible for reimbursement for a majority of their patients.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/ohpr/Pages/healthreform/pcpch/index.aspx>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.pccpi.org/>

## Clinical Definitions

This section provides an overview of the key clinical definitions integral to the provision of SBIRT services and the related billing definitions of such services.

There are several definitions of alcohol and substance abuse and misuse, including:

- **Alcohol Abuse:** as defined by the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition* is drinking that leads an individual to recurrently fail in major home, work, or school responsibilities; use alcohol in physically hazardous situations (such as while operating heavy machinery); or have alcohol-related legal or social problems.<sup>8</sup>
- **Alcohol Dependence/Alcoholism:** as defined by the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition* includes physical cravings and withdrawal symptoms, frequent consumption of alcohol in larger amounts than intended over longer periods, and a need for markedly increased amounts of alcohol to achieve intoxication.<sup>9</sup>
- **Alcohol Misuse:** a spectrum of behaviors, including risky or hazardous alcohol use.<sup>10</sup>
- **Substance Abuse:** as defined by the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition* (DMS-IV) is substance use that leads an individual to recurrently fail in major home, work, or school responsibilities; use substances in physical hazardous situations; or have substance-related legal problems.
- **Substance Dependence:** as defined by the DSM-IV includes physical cravings and withdrawal symptoms, frequent consumption in larger amounts than intended over longer periods, and a need for increased amounts of the substance. Dependence also includes repeated unsuccessful attempts to quit using the substance, giving up important social, occupational, or recreational activities, and continued use of the substance despite knowledge of adverse consequences.

Provider types include:

- **Auxiliary Provider or Personnel:** any individual who is acting under the supervision of a physician or licensed professional working within their scope of practice.
- **Supervising Licensed Provider:** this is the individual supervising the incident to service. This does not need to be the individual who performed the initial assessment and initiated the course of treatment.

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<sup>8</sup> American Psychiatric Association (APA).(2000). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition, Text Revision*. Washington, DC: APA, Retrieved July 22, 2013 from [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK44358/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK44358/)

<sup>9</sup> American Psychiatric Association (APA).(2000). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition, Text Revision*. Washington, DC: APA, Retrieved July 22, 2013 from [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK44358/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK44358/)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf12/alc misuse/alc misusefinalrs.htm>

**Brief Annual Screen**

A screen is defined “a rapid, proactive procedure to identify individuals who may have a condition or be at risk for a condition before obvious manifestations occur.”<sup>11</sup> Oregon’s approved brief annual screen involves several short questions relating to drinking, drug use, and mood.

A brief annual screen is considered an integral part of routine preventive care and is therefore not separately reimbursable by Medicaid. There are no CPT codes for billing the brief annual screen. Brief annual screens may be administered by providers or any other clinic staff member. They may be administered in writing, orally, or via various technologies (e.g., on the phone prior to an office visit, electronically).

Image 1: OHA-recommended brief annual screening form;

**Annual questionnaire**  
 Once a year, all our patients are asked to complete this form because drug use, alcohol use, and mood can affect your health as well as medications you may take. Please help us provide you with the best medical care by answering the questions below.

Patient name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently in recovery for alcohol or substance use?  Yes  No

Alcohol: One drink =  12 oz. beer  5 oz. wine  1.5 oz. liquor (one shot)

	None	1 or more
<b>MEN:</b> How many times in the past year have you had 5 or more drinks in a day?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>WOMEN:</b> How many times in the past year have you had 4 or more drinks in a day?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Drugs:** Recreational drugs include methamphetamines (speed, crystal), cannabis (marijuana, pot), inhalants (paint thinner, aerosol, glue), tranquilizers (Valium), barbiturates, cocaine, ecstasy, hallucinogens (LSD, mushrooms), or narcotics (heroin).

	None	1 or more
How many times in the past year have you used a recreational drug or used a prescription medication for nonmedical reasons?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Mood:**

	No	Yes
During the past two weeks, have you been bothered by little interest or pleasure in doing things?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
During the past two weeks, have you been bothered by feeling down, depressed, or hopeless?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<sup>11</sup> Wisconsin Initiative to Promote Healthy Lifestyles (WIPHL), SBIRT Coding, Billing, and Reimbursement Manual. January 2010.

## **Full Screen**

A full screen more definitively categorizes a patient's substance use. Full screens are indicated for patients with positive brief annual screens, and for patients with signs, symptoms, and medical conditions that suggest risky or problem drinking or drug use. A full screen places the patient on a continuum of substance use and suggests whether no intervention, brief intervention, brief treatment, or referral to treatment is appropriate. The full screen may be administered and interpreted by a variety of health professionals (see below).

The Oregon Legislature directed OHA and four other state agencies to spend increasing shares of public dollars on evidence-based services. Medicaid requires that structured, validated questionnaires be used (e.g., the Alcohol Use Disorders Inventory Test (AUDIT), the Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST), and the Alcohol Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST). See Appendix A for the current list of the Addiction and Mental Health Division's (AMH) approved evidence-based screening tools. See OAR 410-120-0000(75), 410-120-0000(124) and 410-120-1320(3) for additional information on evidence based practice and medical necessity.

## **Brief Intervention**

Brief interventions are interactions with patients which are intended to induce a change in a health-related behavior. Brief interventions are typically used as a management strategy for patients with risky or problem drinking or drug use who are not dependent. This may include patients who qualify for a diagnosis of alcohol or drug abuse, and patients who do not qualify for substance-related diagnoses. The brief intervention may be conducted by a variety of health professionals (see below).

## **Referral**

Patients who are likely alcohol or drug dependent are typically referred to alcohol and drug treatment experts for more definitive, in-depth assessments, and if warranted, treatment. The referral is not an independently reimbursable service; it is part of the SBIRT process. The referral can be made by the licensed providers, ancillary provider or other clinic staff that have received sufficient training to make an appropriate referral.

A Substance Use Disorder treatment provider directory is available at;  
<http://www.oregon.gov/oha/amh/publications/provider-directory.pdf>

For individuals enrolled in a CCO, care should be coordinated with a network provider or services.

## **Follow-Up Services**

Follow-up services include interactions which occur after the initial intervention, treatment, or referral services, and are intended to re-assess a patient's status, progress, promote or sustain a reduction in alcohol or drug use, and/or assess a patient's need for additional services.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Wisconsin Initiative to Promote Healthy Lifestyles (WIPHL), SBIRT Coding, Billing, and Reimbursement Manual. January 2010.

**Clinical Service Definitions for Billing**

In general, billable services are referred to as either administration of a full screen, or full screen and intervention services. Administering a brief annual screen is not a billable service.

## SBIRT Services

SBIRT services apply to all age-groups. While the CCO incentive measure is currently for patients age 18 and older, information for coding and billing services for youth and adolescents 10-17 is also provided. This section provides guidance on who can conduct and bill for SBIRT services as well as suggested coding for reporting and claim submission.

### **Who can administer and interpret the brief annual screen?**

A brief annual screen is not a reimbursable service. This part of the process can be done by the front desk staff or any other appropriate professional. The brief annual screen may be administered in writing, orally, or via various technologies. The non-billable, brief annual screen may be mailed to the individual to complete prior to the visit, given over the phone, online or in person.

### **Who can administer and interpret the full screen?**

A full screen is a reimbursable service. It must be administered and interpreted by a licensed provider or an ancillary provider working under the general supervision of the licensed provider (see list of provider types below). The full billable SBIRT services must be provided face-to-face (in-person or via simultaneous audio and video transmission) with the individual. A physician prescription is not required for screening or intervention.

### **Who can conduct a brief intervention?**

A brief intervention is a reimbursable service. It must be provided by a licensed provider or an ancillary provider working under the general supervision of the licensed provider (see list of provider types below).

### **Licensed providers who can independently conduct and bill for SBIRT using their provider number:**

- Physicians
- Physician's Assistant
- Nurse Practitioners
- Licensed Psychologist
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker

### **Auxiliary providers or personnel who can conduct SBIRT under the general supervision of a licensed provider or entity listed above:**

*These provider types would bill "incident to" a licensed professional. This is not an exhaustive list.*

- Health Educators
- Registered Nurses
- Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors
- Qualified Mental Health Professional
- Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Students or Graduates entering Medical Profession
- Community Health Workers

## Incident To Guidance

- **Location:** Incident to billing applies in outpatient Physician's office or clinic settings, but not outpatient hospital clinic settings. Incident to billing does not apply in an "institutional setting", such as a hospital or skilled Nursing Facility.

If a physician's office is located within an "institution", it must be confined to a separately identified part of the facility used solely as the physician's office and cannot be construed to extend throughout the entire institution.

- **Employment:** Both the supervising physician and the auxiliary provider or personnel furnishing the service must be a part-time, full-time or leased employee or independent contractor.
- **Initial Service Requirement:** To bill incident-to, there must have been a direct service furnished by the supervising physician to initiate the course of treatment of which the service being performed by the auxiliary provider or personnel is an incidental part, and there must be subsequent services by the physician of a frequency that reflects their continuing active participation in an management of the treatment.

The auxiliary provider or personnel needs to document the "link" between their face to face service and the preceding physician service to which their service is incidental.

- **Direct Supervision Requirement:** The licensed provider who is supervising the auxiliary provider or personnel must be present in the office and immediately available to provide assistance and direction throughout the time the auxiliary provider or personnel is providing the service(s).

## Oregon Health Authority and the CCO Incentive Measure

### Intent

SBIRT screening and intervention services are designed to prevent members from developing a substance abuse disorder or for early detection. These services are not intended to treat members already diagnosed with a substance abuse disorder or those members already receiving substance abuse treatment services.

The CCO incentive measure “Alcohol and Drug Misuse (SBIRT)” was developed by the Oregon Health Authority and focuses on full screening and brief intervention services provided in primary care and outpatient settings. SBIRT services included in emergency departments and mental health settings (with the exception of co-located mental health and primary care services) are excluded from the measure.

### Specifications

OHA developed the specifications based on coding recommendations developed by CMS and SAMHSA, while using HEDIS specifications for identifying ambulatory outpatient care services to identify unique outpatient recipients by plan. Measure specifications are posted online at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/oha/Pages/CCO-Baseline-Data.aspx>

**Numerator:** Unique counts of members age 18 years as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the measurement year who completed a full, standardized screening tool for alcohol/ substance use, or received screening and a brief intervention, as indicated by one of the following CPT or HCPCS codes:

- 99420, with diagnoses code v79.1 or v82.9 –used for patients who received a full screen based on responses to the annual brief screening. There are no time limitations or requirements for this code. This is also used when a brief intervention lasting less than 15 minutes is performed.
- 99408 – used for patients who were screened and received a brief intervention (15-30 mins).
- 99409 – used for patients who were screened and received a brief intervention (> 30 mins).
- G0396 – used for patients who received alcohol and/or substance abuse (other than tobacco) structured assessment and brief intervention (15-30 minutes).
- G0397 – used for patients who received alcohol and/or substance abuse (other than tobacco) structured assessment and brief intervention (>30 minutes).

**Required exclusions for numerator:**

None.

**Deviations from cited specifications for numerator:**

None.

**Denominator:** Unique count of members age 18 years as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the measurement year, and having received an outpatient service as identified by the following CPT codes:

- Office or other outpatient visits: 99201-99205, 99211-99215, 99241-99245
- Home visits: 99341-99345, 99347-99350
- Preventive medicine: 99385-99387, 99395-99397, 99401-99404, 99408, 99409, 99411, 99412, 99420, 99429, G0396, G0397.

**Required exclusions for denominator:**

None.

**Deviations from cited specifications for denominator:**

None.

**What are the continuous enrollment criteria:**

None.

**What are allowable gaps in enrollment:**

n/a

**Define Anchor Date (if applicable):**

None.

## Limitations

Provision of the initial “brief” screen is not reimbursable and therefore cannot be included in claims data for measurement. Only those patients that necessitated the “full” screen or a screening and brief intervention based on responses to the brief screen can be identified in claims data with the use of the codes included in the numerator and denominator of the incentive measure.

The services of “screening”, “brief intervention”, and “referral to treatment” cannot be separately identified in claims data. The “full” screening is the only portion of SBIRT that can be captured in claims data using the CPT code 99420 (Health Risk Assessment & Interpretation) for SBIRT services that do not meet the 15 minute threshold requirement of CPT codes 99408/99409 or HCPCS codes G3096/G3097 (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment; 15 minutes or more). See Billing & Reimbursement.

The SBIRT benefit will correspond with three CPT procedure codes. Both full screening and brief intervention will **require specific diagnosis codes on the claim**. See page 16 for diagnoses, CPT, and HCPCS codes that will be identified through claims data. As this measure is under development, data collection and/or reporting may change for subsequent measurement years.

## Eligibility

SBIRT is a benefit available to all OHP eligible individuals. While the CCO incentive measure focuses on SBIRT services for the adult population eighteen (18) years of age or older, the SBIRT benefit is available to individuals that are ten (10) years of age or older on the date of service.

For members enrolled in a Medicaid Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) or Fully Capitation Health Plan (FCHP), SBIRT services are to be coordinated with those organizations for reimbursement.

SBIRT does not require a prior authorization (PA) for Fee For Service (FFS) members.

### Screening Frequency

For members enrolled in Medicaid, the screening benefit is limited to medical appropriateness. Usually one screen per rolling twelve months is sufficient; however, there may be clinical indication that an additional screen is needed. When billing 99420, a unit of service is equivalent to the total amount of time required to administer the screening. Therefore when billing the screening, the unit of service should always equal one regardless of time spent completing the screening.

### Brief Intervention Requirements

It is important to note that these are time-based codes; therefore, documentation must denote start/stop time or total face-to-face time with the patient. The total time would include the administration of the screening tool, interpretation of the tool, the intervention and time spent on a referral if applicable. Note the screening code 99420 is not time based.

SBIRT services (including screening and brief intervention) that do not meet the minimum fifteen minute threshold identified by the CPT/HCPCS codes are not separately reimbursable; however, the administration and interpretation of the screening tool (99420) is reimbursable and will meet the CCO Incentive measure when submitted with the diagnosis V79.1 (Screening for Alcoholism) or V82.9 (Screening for Unspecified Condition). Time spent on brief intervention services that are less than 15 minutes are captured in the level of service billed with the E&M visit code.

### Documentation Requirements

To support coding and claim submission, the Medical Record must:

- Be complete and legible;
- Denote start/stop time or total face-to-face time with the patient (because the SBIRT codes are time-based codes);
- Document the patient's progress, response to changes in treatment, and revisions of diagnosis;
- Document the rationale for ordering diagnostic and other ancillary services, or ensure that it can be easily inferred;
- For each patient encounter, document:
  - Assessment, clinical impression, and diagnosis;
  - Date and legible identity of observer/provider
  - Physical examination findings and prior diagnostic test results;
  - Plan of care; and
  - Reason for encounter and relevant history
- Identify appropriate health risk factors;

- Include documentation to support all CPT and ICD Diagnosis codes reported on the health insurance claim;
- Make past and present diagnoses accessible for the treating and/or consulting physician; and
- Sign all services provided/ ordered

Medicaid documentation requirements are outlined in OAR General 410-120-1360

<http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/healthplan/guides/main.html>

In addition, providers should document what screening tool was used and the member's responses to the screening questions. The completed screening tool should be available for review in the case of an audit. To report the full screening only under the SBIRT benefit, use CPT code 99420 with the appropriate diagnosis code that identifies the encounter for SBIRT services.

The medical record must support that the coding for the services reported on the health insurance claim are correct and accurate.

## **Exclusions**

SBIRT services are not designed to address smoking and tobacco cessation services; the CPT codes specifically exclude tobacco as a substance within SBIRT. For direction on billing Medicaid for smoking and tobacco use cessation, contact Provider Services at 1-800-336-6016. See OAR 410-130-0190 for Tobacco Cessation guidelines.

## Billing and Reimbursement

It is the responsibility of each provider to select the most appropriate diagnosis and procedure codes when billing for services. It is the providers' responsibility to comply with the CCO's prior authorization requirements or other policies necessary for reimbursement, before providing services to any Medicaid client enrolled in a CCO. It is the providers' responsibility to be compliant with federal and state laws (see OAR 410-120-1160).

The following diagnoses, CPT, and HCPCS codes will be used to identify full screening and brief intervention services provided to members age 18 years and older who had a qualifying outpatient or home visit during the first measurement year (CY 2013)

### Diagnosis Codes

- V79.1 Screening for Alcoholism
- V82.9 Screening for Unspecified Condition

### HCPCS Codes

Beginning January 1, 2008, Medicare recognizes two G-codes to allow for appropriate reporting and payment of alcohol and substance abuse structured assessment and interventions services that are not provided as screening services, but that are performed in the context of the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury.<sup>13</sup>

#### Structured Assessment and Intervention Services

- **G0396** - Alcohol and/or substance use structured screening (e.g., AUDIT, DAST), and brief intervention services; 15-30 minutes.
- **G0397** – Alcohol and/or substance use structured screening (e.g., AUDIT, DAST), and brief intervention services; Greater than 30 minutes.

These codes should not be reported separately with an evaluation and management (E&M) for the same work/ time. If the E&M would normally include assessment and/or intervention of alcohol or substance abuse based on the patient's clinical presentation, G0396 or G0397 should not be additionally reported.

If a physician reports either of these G-codes with an E&M, utilizing an NCCI-associated modifier, the physician is certifying that the G-code service is a distinct and separate service performed during a separate time period (not necessarily a separate patient encounter) than the E&M and is a service that is not included in the E&M level of service based on the clinical reason for the E&M visit.<sup>14</sup>

G0396/G0397 are to be used for structured alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse assessment and intervention services that are distinct from other clinic and emergency department visit services performed during the same encounter. However, alcohol and/or substance structured assessment or intervention services lasting less than 15 minutes should not be reported using these

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c04.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual for Medicare Services – INTRODUCTION\_FINAL10312012.doc, Revision Date: 1/1/2013

HCPC codes and the clinical resources expended should be included in determining the level of the visit service reported.<sup>15</sup>

## CPT Codes

### Full Screening

- **99420** - Administration and interpretation of a health risk assessment instrument (not time based); billed as one unit regardless of time spent on screening. 99420 is separately reimbursable when performed by the same provider for the same patient on the same date of service as an E&M visit.

### Screening and Brief Intervention

- **99408** - Alcohol and/or substance use structured screening (e.g., AUDIT, DAST), and brief intervention services; 15-30 minutes. NOTE: 99420 (Administration and interpretation of a health risk assessment instrument) is included in the CPT code 99408 and cannot be billed together.
- **99409** – Alcohol and/or substance use structured screening (e.g., AUDIT, DAST), and brief intervention services; Greater than 30 minutes. NOTE: 99420 (Administration and interpretation of a health risk assessment instrument) is included in the CPT code 99409 and cannot be billed together.

**Special Note:** CPT codes 99408/99409 describe services which are similar to those described by HCPCS codes G0396/G0397, but are “screening” services which are not covered under the Medicare program.<sup>16</sup> Based on NCCI edits, these are not separately reimbursable when services are completed by the same provider on the same date as an E&M visit.

CPT codes 99408/99409 and an Office/Home visit can be billed together only when the screening and brief intervention is handed off to a separate licensed professional or to an individual being supervised by a licensed professional separate from the provider of the office/ home visit.

### Preventative Visit/Preventative Counseling CPT Coding Associated with SBIRT Incentive Measure

- 99385-99387, 99395-99397 and 99401-99404

Preventative visit CPT codes do not have NCCI edits associated with them and may be reimbursable on the same date of service as 99420, 99408/99409 when performed by a single licensed provider.

### Office or Home Visit CPT Coding Associated with SBIRT Incentive Measure

- 99201-99205, 99211-99215, 99241-99245, 99341-99345 and 99347-99350

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c04.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual for Medicare Services – INTRODUCTION\_FINAL10312012.doc, Revision Date: 1/1/2013

Office and Home visit CPT codes are associated with NCCI edits and may not be reimbursable on the same date of services as 99408/99409 when performed by a single licensed provider.

## Modifiers

When billing CPT codes 99201-99215 and 99341-99350 with G0396 or G0397, the E&M service must have the accompanying modifier 25, indicating separately identifiable service.

## Coding Resources

The National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Policy Manual for Medicare Services and NCCI edits have been developed for application to services billed by a single provider for a single patient on the same date of service. The edits were developed for the purpose of encouraging consistent and correct coding and reducing inappropriate payment. The NCCI is maintained for CMS by Correct Coding Solutions, LLC.

Inquiries may be submitted to:

National Correct Coding Initiative  
Correct Coding Solutions LLC  
P.O. Box 907  
Carmel, IN 46082-0907  
Fax number: (317) 571-1745

CMS makes all decisions about the contents of NCCI and the manual. Correspondence from Correct Coding Solutions, LLC reflects CMS' policies on coding and NCCI.<sup>17</sup>

Additional resources include:

- AMA's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Manual
- CMS' HCPCS Level II code descriptors and Pub 100 References

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<sup>17</sup> National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual for Medicare Services – INTRODUCTION\_FINAL10312012.doc, Revision Date: 1/1/2013

## Federally Qualified Health Centers

Current FQHC billing requirements and encounter rates apply.

- Reimbursement for SBIRT will be the “encounter rate” and is all inclusive.
- Encounters with more than one health professional and multiple encounters with the same health professionals which take place on the same day and at a single location constitute a single visit, except when one of the following conditions exist:
  - (a) after the first encounter, the patient suffers illness or injury requiring additional diagnosis or treatment;
  - (b) the patient has a medical visit and a clinical psychologist or clinical social worker visit.

Refer to the federally qualified and rural health centers Oregon Administrative Rules for additional guidance. [http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars\\_400/oar\\_410/410\\_147.html](http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_400/oar_410/410_147.html)

FQHCs will need to bill utilizing the SBIRT codes outlined above to “count” towards the CCO incentive measure.

## Resources

AMH approved screening tools are available at the Addictions and Mental Health Services Home page, click on the SBIRT link <http://www.oregon.gov/OHA/amh/pages/index.aspx>

Additional resources are available through the Patient Centered Primary Care Home Institute (PCPCI), <http://www.pcpci.org/>, and through the CCO Learning Collaborative, <http://transformationcenter.org/>

Other recommended resources include:

- The SAMHSA SBIRT protocols and Technical Assistance Publication (TAP 33)  
<http://sbirt.samhsa.gov/about.htm>
- The SBIRT primary Care residency initiative  
<http://www.sbirtoregon.org/>
- The Institute for Research, Education & Training in Addictions  
<http://ireta.org/ebpsbirt>
- The Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy  
<http://cabhp.asu.edu/professional-development/sbirt-development/sbirt-resources>
- Brief Intervention Group B.I.G  
<http://hospitalsbirt.webs.com/>
- Motivational Interviewing, resources and information  
<http://www.samhsa.gov/co-occurring/topics/training/motivational.aspx>
- SBIRT – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; fact sheet –  
[http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/sbirt\\_factsheet\\_icn904084.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/sbirt_factsheet_icn904084.pdf)

## For More Information

For questions related to the CCO incentive measure, please contact:

Sarah Bartelmann at [sarah.e.bartelmann@state.or.us](mailto:sarah.e.bartelmann@state.or.us)

To submit a new screening tool for AMH review, please contact:

Dana Peterson at [dana.c.peterson@state.or.us](mailto:dana.c.peterson@state.or.us) or 503.945.5962

- For questions related to Medicaid billing, please contact:  
Provider Services at 1.800.336.6016 V82.9

## Appendix A: AMH Approved Evidence-Based Screening Tools

This list of AMH approved evidence-based screening tools is current as of July 2013. To submit a new tool for AMH review, please contact the Medicaid Substance Use Disorder Specialist Dana C. Peterson at 503-945-5962 or [dana.c.peterson@state.or.us](mailto:dana.c.peterson@state.or.us)

AMH approved screening tools are available at the Addictions and Mental Health Services Home page, click on the SBIRT link <http://www.oregon.gov/OHA/amh/pages/index.aspx>

OHA does not require use of a specific screening tool or tools to qualify for the CCO incentive metric. Implementation of one or multiple screening tools is at the provider or clinic's discretion, although health plans may have their own requirements related to which screening tools will be utilized. However, the tool(s) used must be an AMH-approved screening tool or a compilation of screening tools.

### Brief Annual Screen, All Patients

This is not a Medicaid reimbursable service.

- **Annual Questionnaire**  
3 questions.

### Full Health Risk Assessment Screen, Adults

This is a Medicaid reimbursable service.

- **The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)**  
10 questions.
- **The Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST)**  
Versions include the DAST 10 and the DAST 20.
- **Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST)**  
8 questions.
- **Parents, Peers, Partner, Past, Pregnancy (5Ps)**  
8 questions.
- **Global Appraisal of Individual Needs – Short Screener (GAIN-SS)**  
20 questions, this is the only full screening tool for alcohol and substance use and depression.
- **Tolerance, Worried, Eye-opener, Amnesia, K/Cut down (TWEAK)**  
5 questions.
- **Tolerance, Annoyed, Cut-down, Eye-opener (T-ACE)**  
4 questions.

- **Cut down, Annoyed, Guilty, Eye-opener (CAGE or CAGE-AID)**  
4 questions.

### **Full Health Risk Assessment Screen, Adolescents (age 10-17)**

This is a Medicaid reimbursable service.

- **Michigan Alcohol Screening Test (MAST)**  
22 questions.
- **Global Appraisal of Individual Needs – Short Screener (GAIN-SS)**  
20 questions.
- **Car, Relax, Alone, Forget, Friends, Trouble (CRAFT)**  
6 questions.

## Appendix B: Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Who is supposed to complete (“fill out”) the SBIRT screening tools?***

The brief annual screen may be conducted by a variety of health professionals or any other clinic staff member (e.g., front desk staff). The full screen may be conducted and interpreted by a variety of health professionals. See page 8 above.

### ***Are dental providers included in the CCO incentive metric?***

No, dental providers are not included in the CCO incentive metric and dental visits are not included in the denominator. They do not use the CPT or HCPCS codes described above for billing.

### ***Who can be reimbursed for SBIRT?***

See pages 8-11 above.

### ***Does the brief annual screen count for the CCO incentive metric?***

No. Only the full screen or full screen with brief intervention services are included in the CCO incentive metric.

### ***Can the brief annual screen be conducted over the phone (i.e., prior to a clinic visit)?***

Yes. We know that some clinics are conducting the brief annual screen over the phone. Depending on the results, with the client comes in for their appointment, they are asked to fill out the appropriate full screen and the results are then reviewed with the client.

### ***How should the brief annual screen be coded?***

The brief annual screen is not reimbursable and there are no associated billing codes. The codes listed in the document and the incentive measure specifications are not for the brief annual screen.

### ***Can CPT code 99420 be used for a brief annual screen?***

No. CPT code 99420 should be used for the full screen only.

### ***Are H0049 and H0050 the appropriate screening codes to report for SBIRT?***

The HCPCS codes H0049 and H0050 are used by Oregon Medicaid for licensed alcohol and drug treatment programs. These codes are not included in the specifications for the CCO incentive metric and will not count towards a CCO's SBIRT rate.

### ***Is H0002 an appropriate screening code to report for SBIRT?***

No. H0002 is used when an AMH-approved provider such as a behaviorist, certified alcohol or drug counselor (CADC), or qualified mental health professional (QMHP) conducts a more comprehensive screening soon after an individual seeks treatment/services. This is not an SBIRT screening.

This screening indicates whether the individual is likely to have a substance use disorder and/or mental health disorder. Individuals who screen positive for substance use disorders are given a full, in-depth assessment. Individuals who screen positive for mental health disorders receive care, or are referred on to receive a full, in-depth assessment.

***Are G0042 and G0043 included in the CCO incentive metric?***

No, not for the first measurement year (CY 2013).

The Metrics & Scoring Committee and the technical advisory workgroup are very clear that the SBIRT measure specifications for year one are a bridge strategy and that the measure warrants additional developmental work. These codes are under consideration for the second measurement year.

***Is the CCO incentive measure counting SBIRT services for ages 12+ or ages 18+?***

The CCO incentive measure will only include SBIRT for ages 18 years and up.

***Can combined screening tools be used (e.g., SBIRT and depression)?***

Yes. The recommended brief annual screening tool addresses alcohol and drug use, along with mood. As long as the brief annual screening for SBIRT asks about alcohol and drug use, other questions can be added, such as tobacco use, or domestic violence.

***Do combined screening tools still qualify for the CCO incentive metrics?***

A brief screening tool such as the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ) -2 for depression that does not also include alcohol and drug use is not appropriate for use as a brief annual screening tool *for SBIRT*.

Likewise, a brief screening tool that only asks about alcohol and drug use is not appropriate as a brief screening tool *for depression*.

If a practice uses a combined screening tool, note that only full screenings for alcohol and drug use (such as the evidence-based tools listed in Appendix A) count towards the CCO incentive metric for SBIRT. A brief annual screen may warrant multiple full screens for an individual (e.g., AUDIT for alcohol use and PHQ-9 for depression). Note that the GAIN-SS tool is an evidence-based, AMH-approved screening tool that addresses both depression and substance use.

***How will a CCO receive credit for SBIRT services if providers are not willing to use the CPT codes? Will non-claims-based data be included in the CCO incentive metric, or will OHA accept reports from a provider electronic medical record showing this activity?***

No – only claims data will be included in the CCO incentive metric for the first measurement year (CY 2013).

If a provider is not using the CPT or HCPCS codes listed above and in the incentive measure specifications, the CCO will not receive credit for SBIRT services they are providing.

Note that OHA is working with a technical advisory workgroup on options for data collection/submission to supplement administrative (claims) data and electronic clinical quality data reporting for several measures in subsequent measurement years.