

Alcohol Misuse Screening in Primary Care

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Neighborhood Healthcare

NhCare Behavioral Health

- 4 FTE Psychiatrists
- 1.5 FTE Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners
- 8 FTE Behavioral Health Consultants based in primary care setting
- 3 FTE Therapists based at a mental health specialty clinic

SBIRT

- Screening
- Brief Intervention
- Referal to Treatment

Alcohol Misuse Screening

- In 2013, the USPSTF recommended that clinicians screen adults age 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. (Grade B)
- Effective January 1, 2014, California offers Alcohol Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) benefit in primary care settings to all Medi-Cal beneficiaries, 18 years and older.

“Unfunded Mandate”

- For Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) providers, the costs of providing SBIRT services are included in the all-inclusive prospective payment systems (PPS) rate. SBIRT services that meet the definition of an FQHC/RHC visit, as defined in the Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) section of the Part 2 – Medi-Cal Billing and Policy manual, are billable.

Further Evidence

- These results make alcohol screening and counseling one of the highest-ranking preventive services among the 25 effective services evaluated using standardized methods. Since current levels of delivery are the lowest of comparably ranked services, this service deserves special attention by clinicians and care delivery systems. [Am J Prev Med.](#) 2008 Feb;34(2):143-152

Alcohol Misuse Screening at NHcare

- In progress
- Single question initial screen
 - “How many times in the past year have you had X or more drinks in a day?” X=5 men 4women
 - 82% sensitive 79% specific. J Gen Intern Med. 2009 Jul; 24(7): 783–788
 - Positive reflexes to AUDIT (10 question)
- Treatment guided by AUDIT score
- Making above structured data so reports and databases can be kept for proactive treatment.

Treatment

- Zone I (0-7): MA gives handout outlining dangers of risky drinking.
- Zone II (8-15): Simple advice from PCP, and handout.
- Zone III (16-20): Simple advice, handout, brief counseling (MI) with BHC, follow up.
- Zone IV (>20): Simple advice, handout, BHC visit, referral to specialized treatment, and f/u