



Network Notification

Date: December 6, 2013

Number: OH-P-2013-28

To: Ohio Primary Care Providers

From: CareSource

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

Effective immediately, SBIRT, or Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment services are covered by Medicare and Ohio Medicaid. As a leader in integrated behavioral health, CareSource encourages its providers to take advantage of the medical encounter and adopt these prevention services in their practice. Specific codes have been identified to enable billing for medically reasonable and necessary **SBIRT** services when provided in a physician's office or outpatient hospital by licensed or certified practitioners qualified to perform the mental health services and working within their State Scope of Practice Act.

| HCPCS Code Descriptor | |
|-----------------------|---|
| G0396 | Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured assessment (e.g. AUDIT, DAST), and brief intervention 15 to 30 minutes |
| G0397 | Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured assessment (e.g. AUDIT, DAST), and intervention, greater than 30 minutes |

SBIRT is an early intervention approach that targets individuals with non-dependent substance use in order to proactively intervene, prior to the need and to avoid more intense treatment. This suite of services provides effective strategies for populations that do not currently meet the criteria for diagnosis of a Substance Use Disorder; however, if left unaddressed, may later require specialized treatment for more severe substance use.

SBIRT consists of three major components:

Screening: Assessing a patient for risky substance use behavior using standardized screening tools;

Brief Intervention: Engaging a patient showing risky substance use behaviors in a short conversation, providing feedback and advice; and

Referral to Treatment: Providing a referral to brief therapy or additional treatment to patients who screen in need of additional services.

While intervention is common with people that show serious signs of substance abuse or dependency, SBIRT services introduce prevention and potential avoidance of unhealthy consequences to a population that may not recognize the risks they face and may benefit from learning the facts and understanding how their own alcohol or drug consumption compares to accepted limits.

For more information on SBIRT, visit <http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/clinical-practice/sbirt>