



TO: Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
RE: Screening Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Performed at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

The purpose of this provider bulletin is to clarify previous guidance for Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) services performed at federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). Any guidance provided in this bulletin will support PB 2015-79 and not supersede it.

FQHCs are encouraged to continue performing SBIRT services as a supplemental service to an established medical or dental visit. SBIRT services are not stand-alone services and they are reimbursed as part of the medical encounter.

SBIRT services should never be added onto an established behavioral health visit billed to the HUSKY Health Plan. 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.

SBIRT Providers:

Based on the scope of practice for licensed practical nurses (LPNs) permitted under Connecticut General Statutes § 20-87a (c), LPNs can perform the majority of SBIRT services under the supervision of a health professional (defined by Section 17b-262-995(26) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies).

LPNs or a health professional can administer the SBIRT screening tool. However, LPNs or a health professional cannot independently interpret the results of the screening tool, nor can they prescribe/administer the brief intervention or, if necessary, refer for further treatment.

Coding and Claims Submission:

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 an FQHC setting.

Encounters for SBIRT services performed in an FQHC setting should be coded using the appropriate screening, brief intervention (SBI) codes (see below) along with the T1015 code.

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

- **99408** Screening and Brief Intervention (SBI) services for alcohol and/or substance misuse or abuse other than tobacco; 15 to 30 minutes.
- **99409** Screening and Brief Intervention services greater than 30 minutes.

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.

Documentation:

Please note: 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) must be documented 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.

Referral resources and supportive services information:

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

For a list of validated SBIRT 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>

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

DMHAS Web site (Finding Services):
<http://www.ct.gov/dmhas>

Free SBIRT resources and technical assistance:
CT SBIRT Training Institute
<http://sbirtinstitute.uhc.edu>
<http://www.ct.gov/dmhas/ctsbirt>

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

If you have questions about this provider bulletin, please contact Dana Robinson-Rush, Health Policy Consultant-FQHCs, Medical Policy at (860) 424-5615 or dana.robinson-rush@ct.gov.