Medicaid Coverage of SBIRT

9.16.22 Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment (SBIRT)

SBIRT is a comprehensive, integrated, public health approach to the delivery of early intervention and treatment services for persons with substance abuse use disorders, as well as those who are at risk of developing these disorders.

Primary care centers, hospital emergency rooms, trauma centers and other community settings provide opportunities for early intervention with at-risk substance users before more severe consequences occur. The goal of SBIRT is to make screening for substance abuse a routine part of medical care.

- Screening is a quick, simple way to identify patients who need further assessment of treatment for substance use disorders. It does not establish definitive information about diagnosis and possible treatment needs.
- Brief intervention is a single session or multiple sessions of motivational discussion focused on increasing insight and awareness regarding substance use and motivation toward behavior change. Brief intervention can be tailored for variance in population or setting and can be used as a stand-alone treatment for those at-risk as well as a vehicle for engaging those in need of more extensive levels of care.
- Brief treatment is a distinct level of care and is inherently different from both brief intervention and specialist treatment. Brief treatment is provided to those seeking or already engaged in treatment, who acknowledges problems related to substance use. Brief treatment in relation to traditional or specialist treatment has increased intensity and is of shorter duration. It consists of a limited number of highly focused and structured clinical sessions with the purpose of eliminating hazardous and/or harmful substance use.
- Referral to specialized treatment is provided to those identified as needing more extensive treatment than offered by the SBIRT program. The effectiveness of the referral process to specialty treatment is a strong measure of SBIRT success and involves a proactive and collaborative effort between SBIRT providers and those providing specialty treatments to ensure access to the appropriate level of care.

A key aspect of SBIRT is the integration and coordination of screening and treatment components into a system of services. This system links a community's specialized treatment program with a network of early intervention and referral activities that are conducted in medical and social service settings.

9.16.22.1 Covered Services and Billing Codes:

EqualityCare covers SBIRT services for clients 18 years of age and older.

• H0049 – Alcohol and/or drug screening, per screening. WY SBIRT Screening Tool – ASSIST – The Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division has chosen the Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST) developed by

the World health organization (WHO) The ASSIST screening tool can be accessed through their web site at http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/activities/assist/en/
• H0050 – Alcohol and/or drug services, brief intervention, per fifteen(15) minute units – Maximum of 4 units.

NOTE: Providers are to bill these codes in addition to the code they will bill for the primary focus of the visit. Screening and brief intervention are not stand alone services, rather they may be part of a medical visit with another problem focus. For example, a patient presents for migraine headaches and is given the ASSIST (H0049 – screening). The ASSIST tool indicates the need for brief intervention (H0050 – brief intervention). The physician would bill the most appropriate code for their services related to the initial complaint of migraine headache, in addition to the appropriate SBIRT codes.

Provider types who may bill the SBIRT codes include:

Physicians-all types
Public Health clinics
FQHC's
RHC's
Family Nurse Practitioners
Advanced Practice Nurses-specialty in Psych/Mental Health
Certified Nurse Midwives
Nurse Anesthetists

For more information on SBIRT billing please refer to the Medicaid CMS 1500 manual: http://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/manuals/Manual_CMS.pdf

You may also contact the Medicaid fiscal agent, ACS provider relations with billing assistance: https://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/wy/general/home.do or please call (800)251-1268 for assistance.

Medicaid Reimbursement (as of January, 2009)

H0049	Alcohol and/or drug screening	\$24
H0050	Alcohol and/or drug service, Brief Intervention per 15 minutes	\$48

Public Health Care facilities receive reimbursement at 83% of the above rates.