

# Alcohol Misuse: Screening and Counseling (AMSC) Interventions for Medi-Cal Members

Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) is updating requirements for Primary Care Physicians (PCP) with Members whose alcohol and substance use may be negatively impacting their health and quality of life. This nationally proven best practice is known as Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral for Treatment (SBIRT), and has been renamed for Medi-Cal as “Alcohol Misuse Screening and Counseling (AMSC).”

**Effective September 14, 2018**, IEHP will cover payment for the following:

1. An annual assessment and immediate intervention must be provided to each Member (all ages) who answer “yes” to the alcohol prescreen question on the Stay Healthy Assessment (SHA) and note this in the Member’s medical record.
2. PCPs are required to use either the AUDIT-C or the Brief Addiction Monitor (BAM) to conduct a further assessment of the Member’s alcohol behavior. PCPs must document which tool is used in the Member’s medical record.
3. Immediate intervention must be offered to Members. To meet this requirement PCPs must supply the Member with the appropriate county pamphlet.
  - The AUDIT-C and BAM assessment tools and county pamphlets can be found: <https://www.iehp.org/en/providers/special-programs>
4. At least one, but up to a maximum of three intervention per year. Interventions may include:
  - Face-to-face delivery session
  - Written Self-help materials
  - Computer or web-based programs
  - Telephone counseling
5. PCPs **must** ensure to identify the assessment and document intervention(s) in the Member’s medical record.

## Children and Adolescents

- Screening and Counseling is recommended for adolescents, who are highly susceptible and at-risk for developing substance use problems.

## Why Choose the BAM?

- This is a comprehensive tool that provides PCPs a clearer understanding of the Member’s needs.
- It assesses for more than just alcohol consumption by including other factors that may impact a Member’s success in sobriety such as social environment.
- The questions are to help PCPs fully evaluate the needs of the Member in regards to alcohol, drugs and psychological support.

## Billing and Coding

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendation that clinicians screen adults aged 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. The following HCPCS codes may be used to bill for these services:

<b>CODE</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
G0442	Annual alcohol misuse screening, 15 minutes	One (1) screening per year
G0443	Brief face-to-face behavioral counseling for alcohol misuse, 15 minutes	Up to three (3) sessions per year

Code G0442 is limited to one screening per year, any provider, unless otherwise medically necessary. Code G0443 may be billed on the same day as code G0442. Code G0443 is limited to 3 sessions per Member per year, any provider, unless otherwise medically necessary.

## Claim Submission

Use a standard CMS-1500 Claim form to receive reimbursement and submit claims to:

IEHP - Claims  
P.O. Box 4349  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91729-4349