



Inland Empire Health Plan



To: IPAs and Primary Care Physicians
From: IEHP – Provider Relations
Date: March 8, 2019
Subject: **AMSC (formerly known as SBIRT) Services**

Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) is updating requirements for Primary Care Physicians 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)” ([APL 18-014](#)). AMSC is required throughout California's health care system.

AMSC requirements:

- An annual assessment and immediate intervention must be provided to Members 18 years of age and older who answer “yes” to the alcohol prescreen question on the Staying Healthy Assessment (SHA) and this must be noted in the Member’s medical record.
- 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. These tools can be accessed under the Forms “Other” section on the Provider Portal via: <https://ww3.iehp.org/en/providers/provider-resources>.
- PCPs must document in the Member’s medical record which tool is used (the AUDIT-C or the BAM).
- To maintain compliance with APL 18-014, IEHP will allow PCPs to bill for covered services and receive payment without prior authorization for all ages.
- Services must be rendered by Primary Care Physicians or their clinical staff (e.g. Nurses, Physician Assistants, Psychologists, Social Workers, etc.) who will be supporting these services under the PCP’s supervision in a primary care setting. Services are reimbursed only under the Primary Care Physician.
- Directly contracted PCPs and PCPs contracted through IPAs should bill IEHP directly for the following codes when rendering services related to APL 18-014 as reimbursement for these services is plan responsibility:

CPT Code	Description	Frequency (benefit limitations)
G0442	Alcohol misuse screening, 15 minutes	1x per calendar year
G0443	Brief face to face counseling for alcohol misuse, 15 minutes	3x per calendar year

If you have any questions about the process, please contact the IEHP Provider Relations Team at (909) 890-2054.