



# PROVIDER *bulletin*

November 15, 2018

Dear Provider:

The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that clinicians screen adults ages 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.

KHS has a contractual obligation with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to ensure these screening and interventions are conducted in the primary care setting to positively affect a reduction of risky drinking behaviors in adults. PCP's must offer at least one, but may offer up to a maximum of three, behavioral counseling interventions for alcohol misuse per year. Reimbursement for the services via KHS claims can be billed with G0442 (screening) and G0443 (brief interventions).

Primary Care Physicians (PCP) must annually screen adult members 18 years of age and older for alcohol misuse and conduct additional screenings when medically necessary. Three (3) tools can be used when screening members for alcohol misuse:

1. The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT);
2. The abbreviated AUDIT-Consumption (AUDIT-C); and
3. A single-question screening, such as asking, "How many times in the past year have you had 4 (for women and all adults older than 65 years) or 5 (for men) or more drinks in a day?"

KHS has uploaded the AUDIT and AUDIT-C screening forms onto our website, located in the *Handbook/Manual/Forms* section of the *Provider Resources* page, under the *For Providers* tab.

Upon screening and evaluation, if the member meets the criteria for an Alcohol Use Disorder, as defined by the current DSM (DSM-5, or as amended), or whose diagnosis is uncertain, are referred for further evaluation and treatment to the county mental health department for alcohol and substance use disorder treatment services, or a DHCS-certified treatment program.

PCPs are required to maintain documentation of the alcohol misuse screening and subsequent interventions of their members in the member's medical record.

Additional resources:

<https://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/dsmfactsheet/dsmfact.pdf>

[https://www.integration.samhsa.gov/AUDIT\\_screener\\_for\\_alcohol.pdf](https://www.integration.samhsa.gov/AUDIT_screener_for_alcohol.pdf)

[https://www.integration.samhsa.gov/images/res/tool\\_auditc.pdf](https://www.integration.samhsa.gov/images/res/tool_auditc.pdf)

[https://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/Practitioner/CliniciansGuide2005/clinicians\\_guide.htm](https://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/Practitioner/CliniciansGuide2005/clinicians_guide.htm)

<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/clinical-guides-and-manuals>

[http://www.who.int/substance\\_abuse/publications/global\\_alcohol\\_report/en/](http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/publications/global_alcohol_report/en/)

[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK64967/pdf/Bookshelf\\_NBK64967.pdf](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK64967/pdf/Bookshelf_NBK64967.pdf)

For additional information, please contact your KHS Provider Relations Representative at (661) 664-5000.

Thank you,

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