



# SCREENING, BRIEF INTERVENTION, AND REFERRAL TO TREATMENT



## Integrated Behavioral Health Care

In this new era of health care CareSource is positioned to support you, our trusted partners, in delivering integrated health care to our members. CareSource believes that health care outcomes are improved if treatment is grounded in a strong relationship between patient and physician. We know that good health means more than just taking care of physical needs. At CareSource we are committed to a comprehensive, community-based health approach for our membership through strong collaboration and partnerships. Just as preventive screening for heart disease or diabetes is customary, diagnostic assessments for early detection of substance use disorder is critical to mitigate the more drastic effects on an individual's physical, behavioral, and psychosocial health. SBIRT, or Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment, treats behavioral health with the same importance as physical health.

CareSource is committed to our Health Partners and we listen to feedback. We strive to eliminate any barriers. Based on the feedback we received from our providers, we researched solutions to the complications with billing Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). The following is a result of the research to remove any barriers involving SBIRT.

Just as preventive screening for heart disease or diabetes is customary, diagnostic assessments for early detection of substance use disorder (SUD) is critical to mitigate the more drastic effects on an individual's physical, behavioral, and psychosocial health. SBIRT treats behavioral health with the same importance as physical health.

## What is SBIRT?

SBIRT is an evidence-based approach to identify, reduce, and prevent problematic substance use disorders. There are three major components to SBIRT

**Screening:** Assessing a patient for risky substance use behaviors using standardized screening tools

Examples of tools include the following:

- Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)
- Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST)
- Alcohol, Smoking, Substance involvement Screening Test (ASSIST)
- Cut Down, Annoyed, Guilty, Eye-Opener (CAGE)

**Brief Intervention:** Interaction with members to explore and support change in risky substance use behaviors in a short conversation, providing feedback and advice

**Referral to Treatment:** Providing a referral for brief therapy or additional treatment to patients who screen in need of additional services

Screening should be conducted annually. However, more frequent screening may be warranted for:

- Adolescents
- Patients who are pregnant or considering becoming pregnant
- Individuals experiencing significant increases in psychological stressors
- Patients with substance use problems who have recently changed behavior

## Why SBIRT?

- Early intervention results in decreased long term, intensive substance abuse services which saves lives and money.
- Used by paraprofessionals as well as clinicians, SBIRT is non-confrontational, positive and can be utilized in multiple settings.
- States like Wisconsin and Texas have built on its clinical success and have demonstrated its cost-effectiveness, reducing hospital costs and emergency room visits.
- The SBIRT screening tool has been successfully implemented during a five-year pilot project in two hospitals in Georgia, resulting in a decrease in substance use among participants.

## SBIRT Coding and Reimbursement

SBIRT coding and reimbursement can vary by plan and by state.

### Qualifying Providers

#### Marketplace Insurance Plans

For Marketplace insurance plans, the following Indiana licensed professionals can bill for SBIRT independently:

- Physician
- Physician Assistance (PA)
- Nurse Practitioner (NP)
- Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)
- Clinical Psychologist (CP)
- Clinical Social Worker (CSW)
- Certified Nurse-Midwife

Marketplace payable codes for you to bill are:

State	Billing Codes	Place of Service Codes
Indiana Market Place	G0396- Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured screening and brief intervention services; 15 to 30 minutes	Reimbursement is restricted to the following codes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 04- Homeless shelter</li> <li>• 11- Office</li> <li>• 23- Emergency room</li> <li>• 50- Federally qualified health center (FQHC)</li> <li>• 72- Rural health clinic (RHC)</li> </ul>
	G0397-Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured screening and brief intervention services; Over 30 minutes	

### Medicaid

For Medicaid the following Indiana licensed professionals can bill for SBIRT independently:

- Licensed Physicians (MD, DO)
- Licensed Psychologists
- Health Service Providers in Psychology (HSPPs)
- Licensed Mid-Level Practitioners

Please refer to the [Indiana Medicaid Mental Health and Addictions Reference Manual](#) for more details about qualified providers and mid-level practitioner requirements.

Medicaid payable codes can vary by State:

State	Billing Codes	Place of Service Codes
Indiana Medicaid	99408- Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured screening and brief intervention services; 15 to 30 minutes  99409- Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured screening and brief intervention services; Over 30 minutes	Reimbursement is restricted to the following codes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 04- Homeless shelter</li> <li>• 11- Office</li> <li>• 23- Emergency room</li> <li>• 50- Federally qualified health center (FQHC)</li> <li>• 72- Rural health clinic (RHC)</li> </ul>

**Remember, to be eligible for billing, SBIRT sessions must be at least 15 minutes.** This can be documented by either 1) documenting the start and stop time, or 2) documenting total face-to-face time involved in the SBIRT session.

The member may be seen the same day by another provider as long as the second provider bills under their own unique billing number.

Providers should check the Indiana Medicaid Fee Schedule prior to claim submission at <http://provider.indianamedicaid.com/>.

Marketplace providers should refer to billing guidance from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) prior to claim submission.