

December 18, 2021

Dear Provider,

KHS covers Screening, Assessment, Brief Interventions and Referral to Treatment (SABIRT) services for Members 11 years of age and older, including pregnant women as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Bright Futures initiative, the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) Grade A or B recommendations, and the Medi-Cal Provider Manual. These services may be provided by KHS providers within their scope of practice and must comply with all applicable laws and regulations relating to the privacy of substance use disorders (SUD) records, as well as state law concerning the right of minors over 12 years of age to consent to treatment, including, without limitation, Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 2.1 et seq., 42 CFR Section 2.14, and Family Code Section 6929.

Screening

Unhealthy alcohol and drug use screening must be conducted using validated screening tools. Validated screening tools include, but are not limited to:

- Cut Down-Annoyed-Guilty-Eye-Opener Adapted to Include Drugs (CAGE-AID)
- Tobacco Alcohol, Prescription medication and other Substances (TAPS)
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Quick Screen for adults
 - The single NIDA Quick Screen alcohol-related question can be used for alcohol use screening
- Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST-10)
- Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT-C)
- Parents, Partner, Past and Present (4Ps) for pregnant women and adolescents
- Car, Relax, Alone, Forget, Friends, Trouble (CRAFFT) for non-pregnant adolescents
- Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test Geriatric (MAST-G) alcohol screening for geriatric population.

Brief Assessment

When a screening is positive, validated assessment tools should be used to determine if unhealthy alcohol use or SUD is present. Validated alcohol and drug assessment tools may be used without first using validated screening tools. Validated assessment tools include, but are not limited to:

- NIDA-Modified Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (NM-ASSIST)
- Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST-20)
- Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)

Brief Interventions and Referral to Treatment

For KHS Members with brief assessments that reveal unhealthy alcohol use, brief misuse counseling should be offered. Appropriate referral for additional evaluation and treatment, including medications for addiction treatment, must be offered to recipients whose brief assessment demonstrates probable alcohol use disorder (AUD) or SUD. Alcohol and/or drug brief interventions include alcohol misuse counseling and counseling a Member regarding additional treatment options, referrals, or services.



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Brief interventions must include the following:

- Providing feedback to the patient regarding screening and assessment results;
- Discussing negative consequences that have occurred and the overall severity of the problem;
- Supporting the patient in making behavioral changes; and
- Discussing and agreeing on plans for follow-up with the patient, including referral to other treatment if indicated.

Documentation Requirements

KHS Member medical records must include the following:

- The service provided (e.g., screen and brief intervention);
- The name of the screening instrument and the score on the screening instrument (unless the screening tool is embedded in the electronic health record);
- The name of the assessment instrument (when indicated) and the score on the assessment (unless the screening tool is embedded in the electronic health record); and
- If and where a referral to an AUD or SUD program was made.

KHS PCPs must maintain documentation of SABIRT services provided to KHS Members. When a KHS Member transfers from one PCP to another, the receiving PCP must attempt to obtain the member's prior medical records, including those pertaining to the provision of preventive services.

For any questions, please contact your Provider Relations Representative. Additional details regarding SABIRT requirements can be found in:

- KHS Policy & Procedures 3.10-P: Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment

<https://www.kernfamilyhealthcare.com/providers/policies-and-procedures/>

- All Plan Letter 21-014: Alcohol and Drug Screening, Assessment, Brief Interventions and Referral to Treatment

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPsandPolicyLetters/APL2021/APL21-014.pdf>

Thank you,

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