



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Med-QUEST Division
Health Care Services Branch
P. O. Box 70090
Kapolei, Hawaii 96709-0190

November 10, 2016

MEMORANDUM:

MEMO NO.
QI-1612

TO: QUEST Integration Health Plans and Physicians

FROM:  Judy Mohr Peterson, PhD
Med-QUEST Division Administrator

SUBJECT: MEDICAID BENEFITS FOR PRENATAL SCREENING, BRIEF INTERVENTION, AND REFERRAL TO TREATMENT (SBIRT) PILOT PROJECT

Effective immediately, Med-QUEST Division (MQD) is providing reimbursement for prenatal SBIRT. SBIRT is an effective evidence-based public health approach for reducing risky behavior related to substance misuse. This pilot project is one way that MQD, with support from SBIRT-trained prenatal care providers, hopes to work towards achieving the goal of healthier families and communities as established in the Governor's State Health Innovation Plan.

Provider Guidance

Who can bill for prenatal SBIRT:

Any Medicaid contracted Obstetrician not practicing within a federally qualified health center who provides prenatal care and has undergone SBIRT training provided by Hilopa'a Family to Family Health Information Center can be paid separately for SBIRT interventions addressing alcohol, drug, and/or tobacco misuse. This payment is separate from the reimbursement for prenatal care.

SBIRT process:

1. **Screening - brief:** One to several brief questions about alcohol, tobacco and drug use. This is considered a routine part of preventive care and is not reimbursable.
2. **Screening - full:** Indicated for patients with a positive brief screen. Any evidence-based tool such as 5 P's, 4P's plus, or ASSIST is used to categorize the patient's substance misuse.

3. **Brief intervention:** Performed after a full screen. A motivational conversation with the patient with the intent of eliciting and supporting healthy behavior change.
4. **Follow up:** Services that occur after initial intervention. Reassessment of patient’s status, progress, and/or need for additional services.
5. **Referral to treatment:** Indicated for patients who are likely to have substance dependence which requires more in-depth assessment and treatment.

Key points:

- The evidence-based tool used, time spent, and the nature of the intervention must be recorded in clinical documentation.
- All SBIRT services for alcohol and/or drug with a minimum of 15 minutes time spent are reimbursable.
- All SBIRT services for tobacco with a minimum of 3 minutes time spent are reimbursable.
- If SBIRT service addresses both alcohol and/or drug and smoking and time spent is a minimum of 18 minutes, reimbursement may be claimed for both alcohol and/or drug and smoking.
- Service time includes the total combined staff time for explaining the screening tool to the patient, administering the screen, evaluation and brief intervention.

Codes:

	REIMBURSEMENT CODES*		DIAGNOSIS CODES	
	Alcohol and/or drug	Smoking		
SCREENING & BRIEF INTERVENTION	G0396 15 to 30 minutes	G0436 3 to 10 minutes	Alcohol use	099.31-
	G0397 greater than 30 minutes	G0437 greater than 10 minutes	Drug use	099.32-
			Smoking	099.33-
The provider may also report other non-reimbursable diagnoses such as:			Abuse physical	09A.31-
			Abuse psychological	09A.51-
			Abuse sexual	09A.41-
			Mental disorder	099.34-

**SBIRT codes will pay separately when combined with any obstetrical codes.*

This pioneering effort in Hawai'i is a partnership between MQD, the Department of Health, and the Hawaii Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative. Aloha United Way and the Omidyar Ohana Fund awarded a grant to this project which is being administered by Hilopa'a Family to Family Health Information Center. More information about SBIRT training for providers will be available soon. Plans for including SBIRT as an integral and sustained part of primary care are also underway.

In addition to introducing SBIRT as an integral part of prenatal care, MQD is also supporting One Key Question to promote healthier families. Asking the question, “Would you like to become pregnant in the next year?” creates an opportunity for the practitioner to discuss healthy reproductive planning if the response is “no”, or how to have a healthy baby that would include screenings like SBIRT. More information about One Key Question can be found in Memo QI-1613.

Please direct any questions to the Med-QUEST Division provider hotline at 808-692-8099 or quest_integration@dhs.hawaii.gov.