

# Wellness Wednesday: Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions to Reduce Alcohol Misuse

April 28, 2021



# Today's Presenters

- Andrea Freibauer
  - Provider Outreach and Education Consultant
- Jhadi Grace
  - Provider Outreach and Education Consultant

# Disclaimer

National Government Services, Inc. has produced this material as an informational reference for providers furnishing services in our contract jurisdiction. National Government Services employees, agents, and staff make no representation, warranty, or guarantee that this compilation of Medicare information is error-free and will bear no responsibility or liability for the results or consequences of the use of this material. Although every reasonable effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the information within these pages at the time of publication, the Medicare Program is constantly changing, and it is the responsibility of each provider to remain abreast of the Medicare Program requirements. Any regulations, policies and/or guidelines cited in this publication are subject to change without further notice. Current Medicare regulations can be found on the [CMS website](#).

# No Recording

- Attendees/providers are **never** permitted to record (tape record or **any** other method) our educational events
  - This applies to our webinars, teleconferences, live events and any other type of National Government Services educational events

# Objectives

- Provide an overview of screening and behavioral counseling interventions to reduce alcohol misuse
- Encourage providers to promote and educate beneficiaries in life-saving preventive services and screenings
- Assist providers in billing to avoid claim denials

# Agenda

- Screening and behavioral counseling interventions to reduce alcohol misuse
- Resources and references
- Questions and answers

# Polling Question #1

- What is your role in the Medicare Program for your facility?
  - Biller
  - Clinician
  - Intake/admissions
  - Compliance
  - Administrator

# Polling Question #2

- How many years of Medicare experience do you have?
  - I am new to Medicare
  - 1–5 years
  - 6–10 years
  - Over 10 years



# Polling Question #3

- How experienced are you with performing, documenting, and/or billing Medicare preventive services?
  - This is all new to me!
  - I am semi-comfortable but ready to learn more
  - I am pretty comfortable but will benefit from this as a refresher course

# Did You Know

- A beneficiary must be enrolled in Medicare Part B in order to be covered for any Medicare preventive services

# Preventive Services Overview

- Medicare pays for many preventive benefits,
- Preventive services support the health of Medicare beneficiaries by:
  - Educating about potentially life-saving services and screenings
  - Early detection and/or prevention of diseases
  - Assisting with/suggesting lifestyle modifications

# Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions to Reduce Alcohol Misuse

# Background

- Per CR 7633, Medicare covers screening and behavioral counseling interventions to reduce alcohol misuse
  - Effective for DOS on or after 10/14/2011

# Benefits of Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions

- Early detection of potential alcohol misuse
- Prevention of alcohol dependence
- Prevention of alcohol-related disease and illness
  - Liver disease, cancer, heart problems
- Reduction in/abstinence from alcohol consumption

# Coverage

- Medicare benefit to reduce alcohol misuse
  - Two parts to benefit –
    - Annual screening (all beneficiaries)
    - Behavioral counseling intervention (when criteria met)
  - Must be rendered by qualified primary care physician or practitioner in primary care setting
  - No specific alcohol misuse screening tool required

# Commonly Used Alcohol Misuse Screening Questionnaires

- For adults
  - AUDIT (Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test)
  - CAGE (Cut down, Annoyed, Guilt, Eye-opener)
  - MAST (Michigan Alcohol Screening Test)
  - AUDIT-C (AUDIT-Consumption)
- For pregnant women
  - T-ACE (Tolerance, Annoyed, Cut down, Eye-opener)
  - TWEAK (Tolerance, Worried, Eye-opener, Amnesia, K/Cut down)



# Alcohol Dependence

- Defined as at least three of the following
  - Tolerance
  - Withdrawal symptoms
  - Impaired control
  - Preoccupations with acquisition and/or use
  - Persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to quit
  - Sustained social, occupational, or recreational disability
  - Continuous use despite adverse consequences

# Alcohol Misuse

- Covers wide spectrum of unhealthy drinking behaviors
  - Risky or hazardous drinking
    - Defined for general adult population as
      - >7 drinks per week or >3 drinks per occasion for women
      - >14 drinks per week or >4 drinks per occasion for men
  - Harmful drinking
    - Physical, social or psychological harm from alcohol use, but does not meet criteria for dependence

# Coverage – Behavioral Counseling Interventions

- Covered when patient screened positive for alcohol misuse but not alcohol dependence
- Up to four, brief, face-to-face behavioral counseling interventions covered per year
- Patient must be competent and alert during counseling
- Counseling furnished by qualified primary care physician or other primary care practitioner in primary care setting

# Behavioral Counseling Interventions to Prevent Alcohol Misuse

- Counseling must be consistent with 5A approach
  - Assess behavioral health risks
  - Advice about behavior changes
  - Agree with appropriate treatment goals and methods
  - Assist in achieving goals
  - Arrange ongoing support, adjustment to treatment plan

# Who is Covered

- Alcohol misuse screening
  - All Medicare beneficiaries
- Behavioral counseling intervention
  - Beneficiaries who screen positive for alcohol misuse
    - Level or patterns of alcohol consumption do not meet criteria for alcohol dependence
  - Competent and alert at time of counseling
  - Provided in primary care setting

# Primary Care Settings

- Physician's office
- Outpatient hospital
- Independent clinic
- State or local public health clinic
- FQHC
- RHC

# Not Primary Care Settings

- Ambulatory surgical center
- Emergency department
- Hospice
- Independent diagnostic testing facility
- Inpatient hospital
- Inpatient rehabilitation facility
- Skilled nursing facility

# Telehealth

- Use of telecommunications technology that have audio and video capabilities that are used for two-way, real-time interactive communication
  - [CMS IOM Pub.100-04, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 12, Section 190](#)
  - Must be provided by qualified telehealth provider
  - Physicians and certain NPPs (NP, PA, CNM)
  - Other practitioners, such as CNAs, LCSWs, CPs, within scope of practice and consistent with Medicare benefit rules
- Benefit limits place of service to beneficiary in designated rural area and only certain providers qualified as originating site
  - Exceptions under new COVID-19 public health emergency waiver



# Not Telehealth

- Virtual check-in
  - Pays professionals for brief (5-10 min) communications
  - Mitigates need for in-person visit
- E-visit
  - Beneficiary communicates with doctors through online patient portals

# New 1135 Waiver Due to COVID-19

- Effective for services starting 3/6/2020 and for the duration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
  - Telehealth visits considered same as in-person visits and paid at same rate as regular, in-person visits
  - Payment for Medicare telehealth services furnished to beneficiaries in any healthcare facility and in their home
  - Providers can reduce or waive Medicare coinsurance and deductible for telehealth visits

# CMS Telehealth References – COVID-19

- [Medicare Telemedicine Health Care Provider Fact Sheet](#)
- [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on Medicare Fee-for-Service \(FFS\) Billing](#)
- [List of Telehealth Services](#)

# Who Can Perform

- Primary care physician
- Primary care practitioner
  - NP
  - CNS
  - PA

# Frequency of Screening/Counseling

- Alcohol misuse screening
  - Covered annually
    - Once every 12 months
      - At least 11 full months have passed since last covered alcohol misuse screening
- Behavioral counseling intervention
  - Up to four in 12-month period

# Nationally Non-Covered Indications

- Alcohol screening when performed more than one time in 12-month period
- Brief face-to-face behavioral counseling interventions when performed more than once a day (two on same day)
- Brief face-to-face behavioral counseling interventions when performed more than four times in 12-month period

# Documentation

- Must show all coverage requirements met
- Identify screening tool, results

# Billing

- HCPCS codes
  - G0442: Annual Alcohol Misuse Screening, 15 minutes
  - G0443: Brief face-to-face behavioral counseling for Alcohol Misuse, 15 minutes
- Diagnosis code
  - Must be reported but no specific diagnosis code required for coverage
  - Only ICD-10 codes accepted



# TOBs and Revenue Codes

Facility	TOB	Revenue Code
Hospital outpatient	13X	As appropriate
CAH	85X	
RHC	71X	
FQHC	77X	

# Billing

- Both screening and counseling can be covered on same DOS
- No more than one G0443 service can be paid for per DOS
- No payment for additional time spent in screening or counseling
  - No start/stop times required in documentation

# Additional Instructions for RHC and FQHC

- Alcohol abuse screening qualifies as stand-alone billable encounter
  - If only service performed on DOS
  - Report payment code with 052X revenue code
  - Report screening on qualifying HCPCS code line
  - Claim generates AIR/PPS payment
- Report screening as incident to when performed on same DOS as billable encounter
  - Does not generate additional payment
  - Reimbursement included in AIR/PPS payment

# Payment

Facility	Payment
Hospital outpatient	OPPS
RHC	AIR
FQHC	PPS
CAH Method I	101% reasonable cost TC
CAH Method II	Plus 115% MPFS nonfacility rate PC

# Beneficiary Cost-Sharing

- Affordable Care Act Section 4104
  - Deductible waived
  - Coinsurance/copayment waived

# Why Claims are Denied

- Covered alcohol misuse screening in past 12 months
- Behavioral counseling without alcohol misuse screening
- More than four behavioral counseling intervention session in last 12 months
- More than one behavioral counseling intervention on same DOS
- Services provided outside primary care setting or not furnished by qualified professional

```

MAP175M                NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES,#13001 UAT    ACMFA561 12/18/19
MXG9282    SC                ACCEPTED                A20201AF 10:50:51
MID                NM                IT        DB                SX
PRVN SERVC TECH D PROF D ; PRVN SERVC TECH D PROF D ; PRVN SERVC TECH D PROF D
TELH/99231 060111 060111    BONE/77085 060111 060111
TELH/99232 060111 060111    COCS/      GDR
TELH/99233 060111 060111    LDCT/G0297 041315 SRV
TELH/99307 060111 060111    HPVS/G0476 092816 092816
TELH/99308 060111 060111    HIVS/
TELH/99309 060111 060111    BONE/0508T 060111 060111
TELH/99310 060111 060111    BONE/0554T 060111 060111
BEHV/G0442          101411    BONE/0555T 060111 060111
BEHV/G0443          SVC          BONE/0556T 060111 060111
BEHV/G0444 101411 101411    BONE/0557T 060111 060111
BEHV/G0446 110811 110811    BONE/0558T 060111 060111
BONE/77078 060111 060111
BONE/77080 060111 060111
BONE/77081 060111 060111
BONE/76977 060111 060111
BONE/G0130 060111 060111
BEHV/G0473 010115 010115
HCAS/G0472 020515 020515

        PROCESS COMPLETED    ---    PLEASE CONTINUE
PRESS PF3-EXIT  PF5-SCROLL BKWD  PF7-PREV PAGE  PF8-NEXT PAGE

```

# What You Should Do Now

- Share this presentation with other internal staff members
- Talk to your patients about the importance of taking advantage of Medicare preventive services
- Update system with correct coding information
- Update any internal procedure to include verifying the patient's eligibility to receive preventive services to avoid costly, time-consuming claim errors



# Resources and References



# CMS Resources

- [Internet-Only Manuals \(IOMs\) web page](#)
  - Regulations and Guidance > Manuals > Internet-Only Manuals (IOMs)
- National Coverage Determinations – [Medicare Coverage Database](#)
- Preventive Services Web Pages – [Provider Resources](#)

# CMS Internet-Only Manuals

- CMS Pub. 100-03, *Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual, Part 4*
  - Section 210.8 – Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions in Primary Care to Reduce Alcohol
- CMS Pub. 100-04, *Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 18*
  - Section 180 – Alcohol Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions in Primary Care to Reduce Alcohol Misuse

# CMS Resources

- Change Requests – [Transmittals](#)
- [MLN Matters® Articles](#)
- MLN Products – [MLN Publications & Multimedia](#)
  - Preventive Services Educational Products Web page
  - MLN Products Catalog
  - Web-based training

# Change Requests

- CR 7633: Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions in Primary Care to Reduce Alcohol Misuse
- CR 7791: CWF Instructions for CR 7633

# MLN Matters® Articles

- *MM7633: Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions in Primary Care to Reduce Alcohol Misuse*
- *MM7791: CWF Instructions for CR 7633*
- *SE1039: Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) Billing Guide*

# MLN Products

- ICN 907798: *Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions in Primary Care to Reduce Alcohol Misuse*

# For More Information

- USPSTF Recommendations
  - [\*Unhealthy Alcohol Use in Adolescents and Adults: Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions\*](#)
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
  - [Publications & Multimedia](#)



# Thank You!

- Follow-up email
  - Attendees will be provided a Medicare University Course Code
- Questions?

We're on Twitter!



@NGSMedicare

[Follow us](#)