

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

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Today's Presenters

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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 One

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

Polling Question Two

- 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 Three

- 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 Publication 100-04, Chapter 12, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, 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

Telehealth

- 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 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 screening in past 12 months
- Behavioral counseling without 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

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What You Should Do Now

- Share this presentation with other internal staff members
- Talk to your patients about importance of taking advantage of Medicare preventive services
- Update system with correct coding information
- Update any internal procedures to include verifying patient's eligibility to receive preventive services

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

- Publication 100-03, *Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual, Part 4*
 - Section 210.8 – Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions in Primary Care to Reduce Alcohol
- Publication 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 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?

