# **PROVIDER***Update*





REGULATORY

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### THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO MEDI-CAL PROVIDERS:

### • Physicians

- Participating Physician Groups
  Hospitals
- Ancillary Providers

#### **PROVIDER SERVICES**

1-888-893-1569 www.healthnet.com

# Alcohol Misuse: Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions

USPSTF recommends annual alcohol misuse screening in the primary care setting for all adults ages 18 and older

On September 14, 2018, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) issued All Plan Letter (APL) 18-014 clarifying the primary care requirements regarding alcohol misuse screening and behavioral counseling interventions. This requirement is consistent with the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendations for adults ages 18 and older as part of preventive screening services.

Health Net,\* on behalf of CalViva Health, is required to cover and pay for an expanded alcohol screening for members ages 18 and older, or at any time the primary care physician (PCP) – or the primary care team – discovers a potential alcohol misuse problem.

## **PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS**

If a member is involved in risky or hazardous alcohol use as identified from the annual alcohol misuse screening process, CalViva Health and Health Net require providers to:

- Offer one, but may offer up to a maximum of three, behavioral health counseling interventions per year. Interventions may be delivered via face-to-face sessions, written self-help materials, computer- or web-based programs, or by telephone.
- When medically necessary, obtain an authorization for additional behavioral counseling interventions over three per year.
- Document all expanded alcohol misuse screenings and medically necessary authorization requests in the member's medical record.
- Refer members who meet the criteria for alcohol use disorder (AUD) to behavioral health or alcohol use disorder services.

## SCREENING TOOLS

One of the following USPSTF validated screening tools must be used by the PCP when screening members for alcohol misuse:

- 1. Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) questionnaire
- 2. Abbreviated AUDIT-Consumption (AUDIT-C) questionnaire
- 3. A single-question screening, such as asking, "How many times in the past year have you had:

For women and all adults ages 65 and older	For men
more than four drinks on any day?"	more than five drinks on any day?"

CalViva Health plan in California that provides services to Medi-Cal enrollees in Fresno, Kings and Madera counties. CalViva Health contracts with Health Net Community Solutions, Inc. to provide and arrange for network services. \*Health Net Community Solutions, Inc. is a subsidiary of Health Net, LLC and Centene Corporation. Health Net is a registered service mark of Health Net, LLC. All other identified trademarks/service marks remain the property of their respective companies. All rights reserved. CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE FOR FAX TRANSNISSION: This facsimile may contain confidential information. The information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, or the person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the information contained in this transmission is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender immediately by telephone or by return fax and destroy this transmission, along with any attachments. OTH027347EH00 (1/19) The AUDIT and AUDIT-C questionnaires are available from the:

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (SAMHSA-HRSA) website at www.integration.samhsa.gov/clinical-practice, then select *Screening Tools > Drug & Alcohol Use Screening Tools*. AUDIT and AUDIT-C are found under the subheading Drug and Alcohol Use.
- Forms section of the provider operations manuals, available in the Provider Library on the Health Net provider website at provider.healthnet.com. Both English and Spanish versions are available.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Relevant sections of the provider operations manuals have been revised to reflect the information contained in this update as applicable. Provider operations manuals are available electronically in the Provider Library, located on the provider website at provider.healthnet.com.

Providers are encouraged to access the provider portal online at provider.healthnet.com for real-time information, including eligibility verification, claims status, prior authorization status, plan summaries, and more.

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this update, contact CalViva Health at 1-888-893-1569.