

# PROVIDER Update



## 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\* 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, Health Net requires 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:

<i>For women and all adults ages 65 and older</i>	<i>For men</i>
more than four drinks on any day?”	more than five drinks on any day?”

THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO **CAL MEDICCONNECT PROVIDERS:**

- Physicians
- Participating Physician Groups
- Hospitals
- Ancillary Providers

### PROVIDER SERVICES

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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](http://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](http://provider.healthnet.com). Both English and Spanish versions are available.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Relevant sections of Health Net's 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 Health Net's provider website at [provider.healthnet.com](http://provider.healthnet.com).

Providers are encouraged to access Health Net's provider portal online at [provider.healthnet.com](http://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 the Health Net Provider Services Center by county within 60 days at:

Line of Business	Telephone Number	Email Address
CAL MEDICCONNECT – LOS ANGELES COUNTY	1-855-464-3571	provider_services@healthnet.com
CAL MEDICCONNECT – SAN DIEGO COUNTY	1-855-464-3572	