

# PROVIDER Update



Health Net®

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## SBIRT Training and Attestation Requirements Reminder

As a reminder, supervising licensed providers and trained, unlicensed providers who offer screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT) services are subject to Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) training and attestation requirements. SBIRT benefits were expanded effective January 1, 2014, for Medi-Cal members ages 18 and older who misuse alcohol. This expanded benefit takes into account research that demonstrates counseling interventions in the primary care setting positively impact risky drinking behavior, and potentially reduce the risk of injury or death as a result of such behavior.

### TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Each supervising licensed provider of SBIRT services must attest that they have obtained the required SBIRT training within 12 months after initiating the provision of SBIRT services. These requirements also apply to pediatricians, as SBIRT services are a covered benefit for pediatric members over age 18, but under age 21. Each trained, unlicensed provider of SBIRT services must attest that they have obtained the required SBIRT training prior to initiating services. The training and attestation is a one-time requirement. The Medi-Cal SBIRT Attestation Form is available on the Health Net provider website at [provider.healthnet.com](http://provider.healthnet.com) in the Provider Library under *Forms*.

A list of available trainings is available on the DHCS site at [www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/SBIRT.aspx](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/SBIRT.aspx), most of which offer continuing education units (CEUs) and help providers stay up-to-date on proven medical advances on treatment and interventions for patients who misuse alcohol.

### Licensed Providers

Primary care physicians (PCPs), physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and psychologists who provide SBIRT services or supervise a trained, unlicensed health care provider in the provision of SBIRT services are required to comply with the following training requirements, at a minimum:

- For clinics or practices, at least one supervising licensed provider must complete four hours of SBIRT training within 12 months after initiating SBIRT services.
  - Beyond the first 12 months of providing SBIRT services, at least one supervising licensed provider per clinic or practice must have completed training.

Though not required, it is recommended that:

- All rendering licensed providers take training in order to provide SBIRT services.
- For providers practicing alone, the provider completes four hours of SBIRT training within 12 months after initiating SBIRT services.

### THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO CALIFORNIA PROVIDERS:

- Physicians
- Participating Physician Groups
- Hospitals
- Ancillary Providers

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- HMO/POS
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### PROVIDER SERVICES

(800) 675-6110

[www.healthnet.com](http://www.healthnet.com)

### NATIONAL PROVIDER COMMUNICATIONS

[provider.communications@healthnet.com](mailto:provider.communications@healthnet.com)  
fax (800) 937-6086

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## Trained, Unlicensed Providers

Trained, unlicensed providers, including, but not limited to, health educators, certified addiction counselors, health coaches, medical assistants, and trained, unlicensed behavioral assistants, are required to comply with the following training requirements, at a minimum, in order to provide SBIRT services:

- Be under the supervision of one of the following types of licensed providers only:
  - licensed physician
  - physician assistant
  - nurse practitioner
  - psychologist
- Prior to rendering SBIRT services, completed a minimum of 60 documented hours of professional experience, such as coursework, internship, practicum, education, or professional work, within their respective fields. This experience should include a minimum of four hours of training directly related to SBIRT services, such as motivational interviewing.
- Prior to rendering SBIRT services, completed a minimum of 30 documented hours of face-to-face client contact within their respective fields, in addition to the 60 hours of clinical professional experience described above. These contact hours may include internships, on-the-job training, or professional experience and SBIRT services training.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information about SBIRT is available on the DHCS website at [www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medical/Pages/SBIRT.aspx](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medical/Pages/SBIRT.aspx), in addition to the Health Net provider operations manuals. The manuals are located on the Health Net provider website at [provider.healthnet.com](http://provider.healthnet.com) in the Provider Library. Once in the Provider Library, select *Operations Manuals > Benefits > Alcohol and Drug Abuse*.

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 Medi-Cal Provider Services Center at (800) 675-6110.

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