



Across the nation, work is underway to establish reimbursement for Screening and Brief Intervention (SBI) for adolescent substance use. The good news is that codes exist so that you can bill for screening your adolescent patients with MassHealth or most commercial insurance and for brief intervention you provide to those that have an identified substance use issue.

How do I bill for screening?

Reimbursement from MassHealth: MassHealth requires all primary care providers (general practitioners, family physicians, internal medicine physicians, obstetrician/gynecologists, pediatricians, independent nurse practitioners, and independent nurse midwives) to offer to conduct periodic and medically necessary interperiodic Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) and Preventive Pediatric Healthcare Screening and Diagnosis (PPHSD) screens for MassHealth members under the age of 21 (except those with MassHealth Limited coverage) according to the EPSDT Periodicity Schedule (the Schedule).

Providers must choose a clinically appropriate behavioral health screening tool from the menu of approved, standardized tools listed in the Schedule when conducting a behavioral health screen at a periodic or interperiodic visit. The CRAFFT, a tool provided in this SBIRT Toolkit, screens for substance abuse risk and is one of several behavioral health screening tools listed on the Schedule.

- You must use service code 96110 “*Developmental testing; limited*” to bill for screening. You must also include a u-modifier based on the physician’s interpretation of findings (indicating that the physician, in his/her professional judgment, identified a potential behavioral health service need). Additional billing information is available online at www.mass.gov/masshealth/childbehavioralhealth. Follow the “Information for Providers” link to “EPSDT/PPHSD Billing Guidelines.”

The 96110 code with an appropriate u-modifier covers administration and scoring of the CRAFFT. The survey instrument used and the nature of intervention must be recorded in the clinical documentation for the encounter.

Reimbursement from commercial payers: Several commercial payers also currently reimburse for service code 96110 for screening. Please check with the payers to which you are contracted to verify coverage for screening.

When intervention is needed, how do I bill for it?

The administration of a behavioral health screen by a physician or independent nurse practitioner in conjunction with follow-up counseling may be billed in accordance with the appropriate evaluation and management code guidelines. For MassHealth, Providers should see Subchapter 6 of the Physician’s Manual for further guidance.

Providers must document the nature and duration of the counseling in the clinical documentation for the encounter.