

**National Government Services Medicare Part B
2024 Preventive Services Virtual Conference
December 9th to 11th**

***Intensive Behavioral Therapy
for Obesity and Screening
for Depression and Alcohol
Misuse Screening***

12/9/2024





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Objective

After this session, attendees will be able to

- Discuss the coverage guidelines for these preventive services
- Properly bill Medicare for these services
- Avoid common claim denials
- Know where to go for more information

Today's Presenters



Provider Outreach and Education Consultants

- Gail Toussaint
- Michelle Coleman, CPC



Agenda

- [Intensive Behavioral Therapy Obesity](#)
- [Screening for Depression](#)
- [Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions in Primary Care to Reduce Alcohol Misuse](#)

Intensive Behavioral Therapy for Obesity

Medicare Definition

- Intensive behavioral therapy
 - Screening for obesity in adults
 - Measurement of BMI calculated by dividing weight in kilograms by the square of height in meters (expressed in kg/m²)
 - Dietary (nutritional) assessment
 - Intensive behavioral counseling and behavioral therapy to promote sustained weight loss through high intensity interventions on diet and exercise
 - Should be consistent with 5-A framework highlighted by USPSTF

5-A Framework/Approach

- Assess
 - Ask about/assess behavioral health risk(s) and factors affecting choice of behavior change goals/methods
- Advise
 - Give clear, specific, and personalized behavior change advice, including information about personal health harms and benefits
- Agree
 - Collaboratively select appropriate treatment goals and methods based on the patient's interest in and willingness to change the behavior

5-A Framework/Approach

- Assist
 - Using behavior change techniques (self-help and/or counseling), aid the patient in achieving agreed-upon goals by acquiring the skills, confidence, and social/environmental supports for behavior change, supplemented with adjunctive medical treatments when appropriate
- Arrange
 - Schedule follow-up contacts (in person or by telephone) to provide ongoing assistance/support and to adjust the treatment plan as needed, including referral to more intensive or specialized treatment

Guidelines

- Can be covered when performed by primary care providers to eligible beneficiaries
 - Beneficiaries who screen positive for obesity with BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²
- Patient must be competent and alert at time counseling provided
- Must be performed in primary care setting – POS 11, 19, 22, 49 and 71

Who Can Perform

- Physician with primary specialty designation of
 - Family practice (08)
 - General practice (01)
 - Geriatric medicine (38)
 - Internal medicine (11)
 - Obstetrics/gynecology (16)
 - Pediatric medicine (37)
- Qualified Nonphysician Practitioner
 - Certified clinical nurse specialist (89)
 - Nurse practitioner (50)
 - Physician assistant (97)

Coverage

- Maximum of 22 IBT for obesity sessions can be covered in 12-month period
 - One face-to-face visit every week for first month
 - One face-to-face visit every other week for months two–six
 - One face-to-face visit every month for months seven–twelve
 - Only if beneficiary achieved weight reduction of at least 6.6 pounds (3 kg) during first six months of counseling

Coding

- HCPCS Code: G0447
 - Description: Face-to-face behavioral counseling for obesity, 15 minutes
- HCPCS Code: G0473
 - Description: Face-to-face behavioral counseling for obesity, group (2–10), 30 minutes



Diagnosis Coding

ICD-10	Description	ICD-10	Description
Z68.30	BMI 30.0-30.9, adult	Z68.38	BMI 38.0-38.9, adult
Z68.31	BMI 31.0-31.9, adult	Z68.39	BMI 39.0-39.9, adult
Z68.32	BMI 32.0-32.9, adult	Z68.41	BMI 40.0-44.9, adult
Z68.33	BMI 33.0-33.9, adult	Z68.42	BMI 45.0-49.9, adult
Z68.34	BMI 34.0-34.9, adult	Z68.43	BMI 50.0-59.9, adult
Z68.35	BMI 35.0-35.9, adult	Z68.44	BMI 60.0-69.9, adult
Z68.36	BMI 36.0-36.9, adult	Z68.45	BMI 70.0 and over, adult
Z68.37	BMI 37.0-37.9, adult		

Diagnosis Coding

- Additional ICD-10 codes may apply
- See the [CMS ICD-10 web page](#) for individual CRs and the specific ICD-10-CM codes Medicare covers for this service

Documentation Requirements

- Medical records must document all coverage requirements
 - Including determination of weight loss at six-month visit

Cost Sharing and Payment

- Neither coinsurance nor Medicare Part B deductible applied to this benefit
- Service paid under MPFS
 - Nonparticipating provider reduction and limiting charge provisions apply

Common Claim Errors

- Beneficiary received more than 22 IBT for obesity sessions previous 12 months
- Beneficiary received IBT for obesity outside of primary care setting

Screening for Depression

Coverage

- Medicare covers annual screening for adults for depression
 - At least 11 months must have passed since last screening for depression
- Benefit does not require specific screening tool
 - At the clinician's discretion (No CMS specific recommendation)
 - The [American Psychological Association \(APA\) website](#) contains a list of various assessment tools

Coverage

- Does not include
 - Treatment options for depression or any diseases, complications or chronic conditions resulting from depression
 - Therapeutic interventions such as pharmacotherapy, combination therapy (counseling and medications)
 - Other interventions for depression
 - Self-help materials
 - Telephone calls
 - Web-based counseling

Coverage

- Must be performed in primary care setting with staff-assisted depression care supports
 - Minimum level supports – clinical staff in primary care office who can
 - Advise physician of screening results
 - Facilitate and coordinate referrals to mental health treatment

Primary Care Setting Defined

- Covered places of service
 - Office – 11
 - Off Campus – outpatient hospital – 19
 - Outpatient hospital – 22
 - Independent clinic – 49
 - State or local public health clinic – 71

Also covered as Medicare telehealth service

- Not covered
 - Ambulatory surgical center
 - Emergency department
 - Hospice
 - IDTF
 - Inpatient hospital
 - Inpatient rehabilitation facility
 - Skilled nursing facility

Coding

- Procedure code
 - G0444: Annual depression screening, 5–15 minutes
 - Only one unit is payable per benefit period (11 full months must pass since last screening)
- Diagnosis code
 - No specific diagnosis code required when billing for this benefit
- Cannot be billed on same day as IPPE or first AWV
 - Can be billed with subsequent AWV (G0439)

Documentation Requirements

- Medical records must document all coverage requirements
 - What risk factor(s) is the patient exhibiting?
 - Describe the type of loss if any, they are experiencing i.e., job status/financial difficulty, death of friends and loved ones, etc.
 - Be certain to include the tool used and the findings
 - Record the time spent for the screening (includes patient taking the assessment)

Cost Sharing and Payment

- Neither coinsurance nor Medicare Part B deductible applied to this benefit
- Service paid under MPFS
 - Nonparticipating provider reduction and limiting charge provisions apply

Common Claim Errors

- Patient received more than one screening for depression in last 12 months
 - RARC N362 – “The number of days or units of service exceeds our acceptable maximum.”
- Patient received screening for depression outside of primary care setting
 - RARC N428 – “Not covered when performed in this place of service.”
- Patient received screening for depression on same day as IPPE or first AWW

Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions in Primary Care to Reduce Alcohol Misuse

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
 - Discretion of practitioner

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)

USPSTF Recommendation Statement

Definitions

- Alcohol misuse covers full spectrum of unhealthy drinking behaviors (risky through dependence)
 - Risky or hazardous drinking, defined for general adult population as
 - > Seven drinks per week or > three drinks per occasion for women,
 - > 14 drinks per week or > four drinks per occasion for men
 - Harmful drinking
 - Physical, social or psychological harm from alcohol use, but does not meet criteria for dependence

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

Applicable Part B Specialty Types

- General practice
- Family practice
- Internal medicine
- Obstetrics/gynecology
- Pediatric medicine
- Geriatric medicine
- Certified nurse midwife
- Nurse practitioner
- Certified clinical nurse specialist
- Physician assistant

Primary Care Settings

- Telehealth (2 or 10)
- Physician's office (11)
- Off campus outpatient hospital (19)
- Outpatient hospital (22)
- Independent clinic (49)
- State or local public health clinic (71)
- FQHC (50)
- RHC (72)

Nonprimary Care Settings

- Ambulatory surgical center
- Emergency department
- Hospice
- Independent diagnostic testing facility
- Inpatient hospital
- Inpatient rehabilitation facility
- Skilled nursing facility

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

Billing

- HCPCS codes
 - G0442: Annual Alcohol Misuse Screening, 5–15 minutes
 - G0443: Brief face-to-face behavioral counseling for alcohol misuse, 15 minutes
- Diagnosis code
 - [Medicare Coverage – General Information ICD-10](#)
 - for individual CRs and coding translations for ICD-10

Billing

- Both screening and counseling can be covered on same DOS
 - Except in RHCs and FQHCs
- No more than one G0443 service can be paid for per DOS
- No payment for additional time spent in screening or counseling

Cost-Sharing and Reimbursement

- Cost-sharing
 - Deductible waived
 - Coinsurance waived
- Reimbursement
 - MPFS
 - [Our website](#) > Fee Schedule Lookup
 - Nonparticipating providers
 - Nonparticipating reduction applies
 - Limiting charge provision applies

Common Claim Denial Reasons

- Covered alcohol misuse screening in last 12 months
- Received behavioral counseling interventions to reduce alcohol misuse but no claims history in previous 12 months of alcohol misuse screening
- More than four covered behavioral counseling interventions to reduce alcohol misuse visits in last 12 months
- More than one behavioral counseling intervention to reduce alcohol misuse visit on the same date of service

Common Claim Denial Reasons

- Received screening and behavioral counseling interventions to reduce alcohol misuse from someone who is not a qualified primary care physician or other primary care practitioner
- Received screening and behavioral counseling interventions to reduce alcohol misuse outside of primary care setting

FAQs

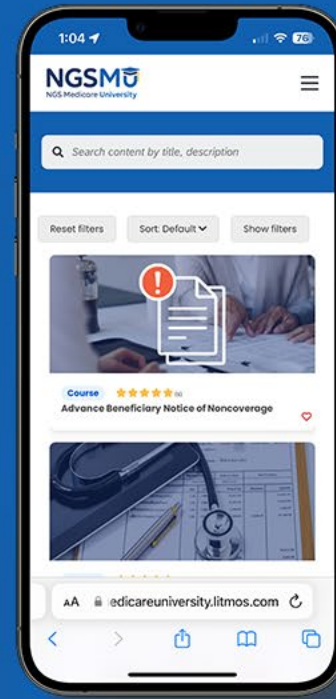
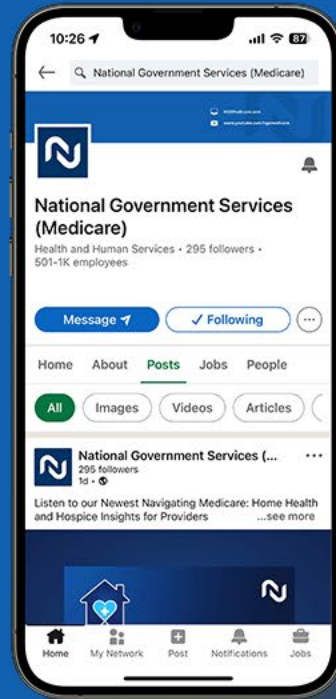
- An AWW (G0438), subsequent AWW (G0439) or IPPE (G0402) can be performed on the same day as an alcohol misuse screening (G0442)
- A separately identifiable E/M visit (with modifier 25) can be billed on the same day
 - Must be documented that the reason for the visit was unrelated to the alcohol misuse screening
- Can be performed via telehealth

Resources

- [CMS IOM Publication 100-03, Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual, Chapter 1, Part 4, Section 210.9](#)
- [CMS IOM Publication 100-04, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 18, Section 190](#)
- [CMS IOM Publication 100-04, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 18, Section 200](#)

Resources

- MLN[®] Educational Tool: [Medicare Preventive Services](#)
- [Medicare Preventive Services General Information](#)



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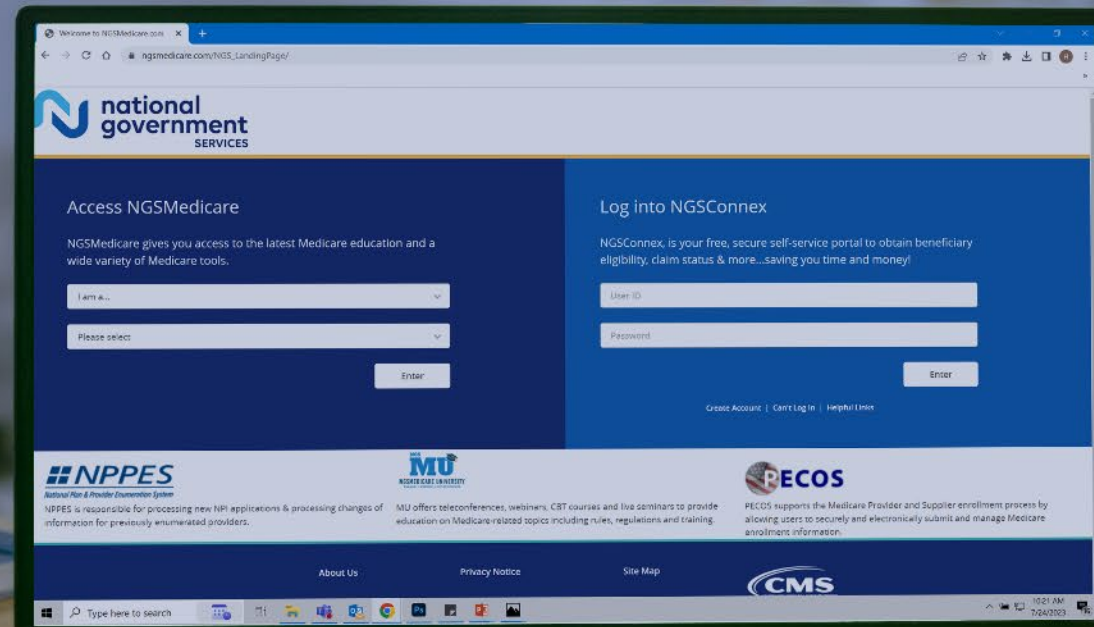


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Questions?

Thank you!