

Network Provider Update

To: Medi-Cal and Cal MediConnect* network participants

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From: Manuel T.G. Enriquez 
Senior Director, Provider Network Management

Subject: **All Plan Letter 21-014, Alcohol and Drug Screening, Assessment, Brief Interventions and Referral to Treatment**

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently issued All Plan Letter (APL) 21-014, "Alcohol and Drug Screening, Assessment, Brief Interventions and Referral to Treatment." We are sharing a summary of this APL with you to ensure you are aware of the information, and you can apply the information to your practice or facility operations, where appropriate.

APL 21-014 explains updated requirements for administering alcohol and drug abuse screening, assessment, brief interventions, and referral to treatment (SABIRT) to members ages 11 and older, including pregnant women. Compliance with this mandate is subject to audit by Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan, including medical record review.

Key topics:

- Changes the scope of services from Alcohol Misuse Screening and Counseling (AMSC) to Alcohol and Drug Screening, Assessment, Brief Interventions and Referral to Treatment (SABIRT).
- Lowers the SABIRT requirement age from 18 to 11 years old.
- Lists recommended tools for screening and assessment.
- Includes documentation requirements.

This summary is only meant as a brief description of the APL. Please see the APL itself and/or the [Evaluation & Management \(E&M\) section of the Medi-Cal Provider Manual](#) for additional background and the complete requirements. The full text of APL 21-014 may be found at this URL: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2021/APL21-014.pdf> (Links to the DHCS.ca.gov website will take you off of the Blue Shield Promise website.)

We will inform you if, in response to this APL, changes are made to current Blue Shield Promise processes that will affect your practice, including monitoring and reporting requirements as needed.

Please direct questions about serving Blue Shield Promise members to our Provider Services Department at **(800) 468-9935** from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

*Cal MediConnect network participants are responsible for identifying and applying the guidance and requirements that pertain to their patients.