

Resources to Support the IHS GPRA Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment Measure

Drug and Alcohol Screening – Tools, Training & Documentation

Indian Health Service

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Agenda and Objectives

What We'll Cover

1. Why SBIRT matters at IHS
2. What SBIRT is
3. Training resource: SBIRT video
4. Self-assessment tool: Change Package Worksheet
5. Webinar resource: New screening tools (TAPS & CAGE-AID)
6. Documentation resource: RPMS EHR guidance
7. Putting it into practice
8. Current Draft Data
9. Questions & Answers



Why SBIRT Matters?

IHS is expanding education and outreach using **evidence-based approaches** to substance use disorder (SUD) care.

- Enhanced **universal screening**
- Stronger **care-coordination** efforts
- Supporting **patient engagement**
- Reducing **drug-related overdose rates**

These efforts directly support GPRA performance measures for SBIRT.

What Is SBIRT?



- Screening — quickly assess for risky substance use
- Brief Intervention — short, patient-centered conversation to raise awareness and motivate change
- Referral to Treatment — connect patients who need specialized care

SBIRT is evidence-based integrated approach designed to be used universally.

What Is SBIRT?

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IHS Clinical Reporting System

Denominators:

1. Active Clinical Plus BH patients age 9 through 75 years who screened positive for risky or harmful alcohol use during the Report Period.
2. User Population patients age 9 through 75 years.
3. GPRA: User Population patients age 9 through 75 years who screened positive for risky or harmful alcohol use during the Report Period.

Numerators:

1. Patients screened at an Ambulatory or Telemedicine visit for risky or harmful alcohol use (with Denominator 1).
 - A. Patients screened positive for risky or harmful alcohol use.
 - B. Patients provided a brief negotiated interview (BNI) or Brief Intervention (BI) at an Ambulatory or Telemedicine visit within seven days of screen.
2. GPRA: Patients provided a Brief Negotiated Interview (BNI) or Brief Intervention (BI) at an Ambulatory or Telemedicine visit within seven days of screen (with Denominators 2 and 3).
 - A. Patients who received a BNI/BI on same day as screen.
 - B. Patients who received a BNI/BI one to three days after screen.
 - C. Patients who received a BNI/BI four to seven days after screen.
 - D. Patients who were referred treatment within seven days of screen.

Resource 1 of 4 : SBIRT Training Video



How to Use SBIRT: Identifying Those With and at Risk of Substance Use Disorder

Short training video demonstrating how to properly identify patients who are using substances at risky levels or who already have a substance use disorder. Ideal as a team refresher or onboarding tool.

► Watch on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOZIlxk_gco

Highlights from the Video:

- SBIRT was first developed to help providers identify individuals at risk for alcohol misuse, but growing evidence proves its effectiveness with other substance use and mental health disorders
- In addition to improved patient care and treatment services, SBIRT has also decreased health care costs and utilization.
- SBIRT process is linked to a 20% reduction in ED visits and 37% reduction in the number of hospitalization days over a four-year period.

Resource 2 of 4 : SBIRT Practice Assessment Tool



Improving Patient Care Change Package Worksheet:

SBIRT Practice Assessment Tool

A self-assessment worksheet to evaluate where your team currently stands in implementing SBIRT – covering goals, objectives, and strategies for full implementation.

PDF: [IPC Change Package Worksheet - SBIRT](#)

Improving Patient Care (IPC) Change Package Worksheet Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)



Use this worksheet to assess where your team is with implementing SBIRT goals, objectives, and strategies.

In the Assessment column, use a 0-5 code to assess your current activities. Then in the Priority column, rank the activities in order, with 1 being the most urgent strategy to address.

Assessment	Code
Not answered.....	0
No protocol and/or not used.....	1
Partial protocol/rarely used.....	2
Partial protocol/used some of the time.....	3
Protocol/used most of the time.....	4
Protocol/always used.....	5

Goal	Objective	Target Strategy	Assessment (0-5)	Priority
Enhance Quality of Care	Universal Annual Screening	Patient and practice education		
		Implemented drug and alcohol screening tools		
	Brief Intervention (brief negotiated interview)	Implemented clinical reporting system (CRS) substance use disorder (SUD) screening measures at https://www.ihs.gov/crs/		
		1. Alcohol screening		
		2. Screening for substance use		
		3. SUD in women of childbearing age		
		Implemented brief intervention and facilitating warm hand-off		
		Evoking self-directed change talk		
		Patient-centered care plans		
		Treatment/referral to alcohol, opioid, substance, tobacco use disorder is available		
	Care Coordination and Co-management	iCare – Care management groups used to support follow-up		
		Referral coordination		
Improve Population Health Approaches	Better Primary Care	Access and continuity of care Emergency department/hospital follow-up protocol to connect patients to care		
	Document, Code and Bill	Electronic health record (EHR) documentation templates (future reminders dialog)		
	Data-driven Quality	Joint Commission Tracers, iCare, CRS development measures		
Joy in Practice	Teamwork	Patient-centered medical home (PCMH) huddles, defined roles, protocols		
	Patient-centered Care	Patient surveys and patient and family advisory councils (PFACs)		
Healthy Community	Mitigate Suicide Risk	Suicided crisis services available (988 suicide and crisis lifeline)		
	Meet Patients' Social Health Needs	Screening for social determinants of health (SDOH) with referrals		

For more information about creating an IPC Change Package, visit <https://www.ihs.gov/office-of-quality/ipc/models-for-improving-care/change-package/>.

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Resource 3 of 4 : New Screening Tools (Webinar)



Overview of New Screening Tools for Substance Use

IHS Pain and Opioid Use Disorder webinar covering TAPS (Tobacco, Alcohol, Prescription medication, and other Substance use) and CAGE-AID screening instruments, and how they fit into SBIRT workflows.

► [View Recording \(54 minutes\)](#)

[Pain and Opioid Use Disorder Webinar Series: Overview of New TAPS and VAGE-AID Screening Tools for Substance Use.](#)

Highlights from the Video:

- Best practices and workflow recommendations to improve screenings for SUD and identifying patient at risk using new screening options.
- Information about TAPS-1 and CAGE-AID.
- Where to find the screenings and “Unhealthy Drug Screening Exam” documentation in the IHS Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) and the Behavioral Health System (AMH)

Resource 4 of 4 : Documentation in RPMS EHR



How to Document Drug and Alcohol Screening and Assessment Tools in the IHS RPMS EHR

Step-by-step guidance for correctly documenting screening and assessment results — essential for GPRA reporting, care coordination, and compliance.

► [View PDF \(18 pages\)](#)

[Drug Screening Tools - How to Document in IHS RPMS EHR.](#)

HOW TO

Document Drug and Alcohol Screening and Assessment Tools in the Indian Health Service (IHS) Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) Electronic Health Record (EHR)

Purpose of this document: Please use this document to understand the type of Drug and Alcohol Screening and Assessment Tools used and how to document the use of that tool in the RPMS EHR.

- **Step 1:** Review table of screening tools.
- **Step 2:** Click link for instructions for documenting screening tools in the EHR.
- **Step 3:** Follow instructions to ensure accurate documentation.

Step 1: Review table of screening tools.							Step 2: Click link for instructions to document tool in the EHR.
Screening Tool	Substance Type		Applicable Population		How Screening Is Completed		
Tool and link to tool	Alcohol	Drugs	Adults	Adolescents	Self-administered	Clinician-administered	
Tobacco, Alcohol, Prescription Medication, and Other Substance Use (TAPS)	X	X	X		X	X	How to document TAPS
CAGE-AID Substance Abuse Screening Tool	X	X	X	X	X	X	How to document CAGE-AID Tool
Drug Abuse Screen Test (DAST-10)		X	X		X	X	How to document DAST-10
Car, Relax, Alone, Forget, Friends, Trouble (CRAFT)	X	X		X	X	X	How to document CRAFT
Parents, Partners, Past and Pregnancy (4Ps)	X	X	X*	X*		X	How to document 4Ps
Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test-Concise (AUDIT-C)	X		X	X	X	X	How to document AUDIT-C
Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)	X		X	X	X	X	How to document AUDIT
NIDA Quick Screen (discontinued in favor of TAPS screening above)	X	X	X			X	How to document NIDA Quick Screen

*For use in pregnant people and people of children bearing age

Putting It Into Practice

Action plan for sites struggling to meet SBIRT GPRA measure



1. Recommend the SBIRT training video
2. Complete the Practice Assessment Tool worksheet
3. Review the TAPS/CAGE AID webinar recording
4. Confirm staff know proper RPMS documentation steps
5. Identify any gaps in universal screening workflow
6. Reach out to the experts!:



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Key Takeaways

Wrap-Up



- SBIRT supports **universal, evidence-based** substance use screening
- IHS provides **training, self-assessment, clinical, and documentation** resources. A small change in the documentation makes a big change with data!
- Accurate RPMS documentation ties directly to **GPRA performance measures**
- These tools support IHS's broader goal of reducing drug-related overdose rates

Current SBIRT GPRA Draft Results-



National Reporting –

- National level reporting included in the IHS Performance Report; reported to OMB and Congress

Current Data: IDCS – SBIRT Screening through August 2026

	National IHS 2026 Target	National Result	Alaska Area	Albuquerque Area	Bemidji Area	Billings Area	California Area	Great Plains Area	Nashville Area	Navajo Area	Oklahoma Area	Phoenix Area	Portland Area	Tucson Area
SBIRT	17.9%	28.13%	32.47%	42.29%	29.06%	33.52%	21.33%	29.01%	65.44%	11.86%	28.52%	14.87%	24.93%	.00%

Current SBIRT and Universal Alcohol Screening GPRA Draft Results

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Current Data: IDCS – SBIRT and Universal Alcohol Screening through August 2026

	National IHS 2026 Target	National Result	Alaska Area	Albuquerque Area	Bemidji Area	Billings Area	California Area	Great Plains Area	Nashville Area	Navajo Area	Oklahoma Area	Phoenix Area	Portland Area	Tucson Area
SBIRT	17.9%	28.13%	32.47%	42.29%	29.06%	33.52%	21.33%	29.01%	65.44%	11.86%	28.52%	14.87%	24.93%	.00%
UAS	36.0%	26.81%	7.05%	36.75%	17.50%	35.03%	17.68%	51.01%	34.81%	43.28%	14.30%	41.55%	16.50%	35.07%

Questions & Discussion

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