



Provider Alert

To: Sharp Health Plan Primary Care Providers and Provider Office Staff
From: Sharp Health Plan
Date: October 9, 2026
Subject: Substance use resource for primary care providers

Dear Provider Partner,

Primary care providers play a critical role in the early identification, treatment, and coordination of care for members with substance use disorders (SUD). [Optum Quick Reference Guide](#) provides resources and best practices to support primary care providers in screening, assessing, intervening, referring, and following up with patients who may be affected by substance use disorders.

Provider Reminders

Providers are encouraged to:

- Screen patients annually and as clinically indicated using validated substance use screening tools.
- Assess positive screening results using DSM-5-TR criteria to determine the severity of substance use and appropriate treatment needs.
- Utilize evidence-based approaches such as Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) to support early intervention and improved outcomes.
- Coordinate referrals for members requiring specialty behavioral health or substance use disorder treatment services.
- Monitor treatment engagement and provide ongoing follow-up to support recovery and continuity of care.

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SHARP Health Plan

Available Resources

Optum Behavioral Health offers a variety of resources for primary care providers, including:

- Substance use screening and assessment tools
- SBIRT guidance and training resources
- Motivational interviewing resources
- Behavioral health referral tools
- Care coordination resources
- Behavioral Health HEDIS measure resources
- Provider education and training materials

Referral and Support Resources

Providers may access behavioral health referral support through:

- The Provider Express secure portal referral tool
- Optum Behavioral Health Provider Services at **1-877-614-0484**
- The Optum Live and Work Well website for behavioral health and substance use disorder resources

For additional information and clinical resources, visit the [Behavioral Health Toolkit for Medical Providers](#).

Sincerely,

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