

Subject: Required Behavioral Health Screening Tools

Requirements

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1. **Programs Affected:** All CCBHC Demonstration participants.
2. **Background and Purpose:** Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) designated by the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) as Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) are responsible for implementing the required behavioral health screening tools in accordance with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) CCBHC Certification Criteria. ***This bulletin describes the scope of the required behavioral health screening tools for CCBHCs.***
3. **SAMHSA CCBHC Criteria Authority**
 - 3.1. For Section 223 Demonstration sites, it is a state’s decision as to whether to require reporting of measures designated as optional and includes both clinic and state-collected quality measures. The CCBHC directly, or through a DCO, provides screening, assessment, and diagnosis, including risk assessment for behavioral health conditions.
 - 3.2. In the event specialized services outside the expertise of the CCBHC are required for purposes of screening, assessment, or diagnosis (e.g., neuropsychological testing or developmental testing and assessment), the CCBHC refers the person to an appropriate provider. When necessary and appropriate screening, assessment and diagnosis can be provided through telehealth/telemedicine services.
 - 3.3. Screening, assessment, and diagnosis are conducted in a time frame responsive to the needs and preferences of the person receiving services and are of sufficient scope to assess the need for all services required to be provided by the CCBHC.
 - 3.4. Screening for depression, substance use disorder (SUD), and cognitive impairment.
 - 3.5. Clinics should use clinically indicated screening tools that are appropriate for the individual, even if the particular tool is not required.
 - 3.6. The CCBHC uses standardized and validated and developmentally appropriate screening and assessment tools appropriate for the person and, where warranted, brief motivational interviewing techniques to facilitate engagement.
 - 3.7. The CCBHC uses culturally and linguistically appropriate screening tools and approaches that accommodate all literacy levels and disabilities (e.g., hearing disability, cognitive limitations), when appropriate.
 - 3.8. If screening identifies unsafe substance use including problematic alcohol or other substance use, the CCBHC conducts a brief intervention and the person receiving services is provided a full assessment and treatment, if appropriate within the level of care of the CCBHC or referred to a more appropriate level of care. If the screening identifies more immediate threats to the safety of the person

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Implementation Bulletin:
Required Behavioral Health Screening Tools

receiving services, the CCBHC will take appropriate action as described in CCBHC Certification Criteria 2.b.1.

3.9. All CCBHCs will be required to use the following screening tools:

All Persons Served	
<i>Tool</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
PHQ-9	Depression/Mental Health
Protocol for Responding to and Assessing Patient’s Risks and Experiences (PRAPARE) (2016) or Standardized Health Related Social Needs Screening (HRSN)	Social Determinants of Health
Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS)	Suicidality
Adults	
<i>Tool</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
UNCOPE	Substance Use
Audit-C	Alcohol Use
Adolescents	
<i>Tool</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
CRAFFT	Substance Use

4. ADMH Behavioral Health Screening Requirements

4.1. All Alabama CCBHCs are expected to utilize screening tools as indicated in this document. If the screening tool indicates the potential presence of a condition, the CCBHC must ensure the required comprehensive assessment confirms or rules out the condition.

4.2. Referrals for treatment of conditions identified through screening should take place within *seven (7) business days*, with the follow-up appointment occurring promptly.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this implementation bulletin is for general information purposes only. For more details on the specific subject area covered in this bulletin, please refer to the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Certification Updated March 2023.

¹ <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/ccbhc-criteria-2023.pdf>