

Subject: Primary Care Screening and Monitoring

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 providing primary care screening and monitoring services in accordance with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) CCBHC Certification Criteria, either directly or via a Designated Collaborating Organization (DCO) partnership.¹ ***This bulletin describes the scope of the required primary care screening and monitoring services for CCBHCs.*** The provision of primary care services, outside of primary care screening and monitoring as defined in this Bulletin and the SAMHSA criteria is not within the scope of the nine required CCBHC services. CCBHC organizations may provide primary care services outside the nine required services, but these primary care services cannot be reimbursed through the Section 223 CCBHC demonstration PPS.
3. **SAMHSA CCBHC Criteria Authority**
 - 3.1. SAMHSA CCBHC certification criteria states each CCBHC is responsible for providing outpatient primary care screening and monitoring of key health indicators and health risk. Prevention is a key component of primary care screening and monitoring services provided by the CCBHC.
4. **Scope of Primary Care Screening and Monitoring**
 - 4.1. Each CCBHC’s Medical Director (or designee if using a DCO) will establish written protocols that conform to screening recommendations with scores of A and B, of the United States Preventive Services Task Force Recommendations.²
 - 4.1.1. Each CCBHC’s written protocols for primary care screening and monitoring will include:
 - Processes for identifying people receiving services who are living with chronic diseases,
 - Ensuring that people receiving services are asked about physical health symptoms; and
 - Establishing systems for collection and analysis of laboratory samples, as further outlined below in Section 3.5.
 - 4.2. Whether directly provided by the CCBHC or through a DCO, the CCBHC is responsible for ensuring these services are received in a timely fashion, preferably during the initial assessment, which is a whole-person assessment. Screenings should be performed routinely for some elements and when medically necessary for others, based on the guidance of the CCBHC’s

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

² <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation-topics/uspstf-a-and-b-recommendations>

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Medical Director (or designee) and in alignment with scores of A and B, of the United States Preventive Services Task Force Recommendations.

- 4.3. The CCBHC must also coordinate with each individual's primary care provider to ensure that screenings occur for the identified conditions. ***If the person receiving services' primary care provider conducts the necessary screening and monitoring, the CCBHC is not required to do so if it has a documented record of the screening and monitoring and the results of any tests that address the health conditions included in the CCBHCs screening and monitoring protocols developed under this Bulletin and Criteria 4.g of the CCBHC criteria.***
- 4.4. Primary Care Screenings must include:
- Hemoglobin A1c Control for Patients with Diabetes (State Collected Measure)

Note: *Although this is a State Collected Measure, Criteria 5.a.3 states "To the extent CCBHCs participating in the Section 223 Demonstration program are responsible for the provision of data, the data will be provided to the state and as may be required, to HHS and the evaluator. Please refer to the Quality Measures for Behavioral Health Clinics Technical Specifications and Resource Manual, February 2024, pages 168 -175 for additional information.*

- 4.5. The CCBHC should have the ability to collect biologic samples directly, either through a DCO or through protocols with an independent clinical lab organization. Required labs conducted as part of primary care screening and monitoring should include:
- Hemoglobin A1c Control for Patients with Diabetes (State Collected Measure)
- 4.6. The CCBHC will provide ongoing primary care monitoring of health conditions as identified in the screening protocols above, and as clinically indicated for the individual. Monitoring includes the following:
- Ensuring individuals have access to primary care services and a designated Primary Care Provider. CCBHCs should coordinate care with primary care and specialty health providers, including tracking attendance at needed physical health care appointments.
 - Ensuring ongoing periodic laboratory testing and physical measurement of health status indicators and changes in the individual's status of chronic health conditions.
 - Promoting a healthy behavior lifestyle.
- 4.7. Documentation of all screening and monitoring must be present in the primary chart housed by the CCBHC.

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 and Quality Measures for Behavioral Health Clinics Technical Specifications and Resource Manual, February 2024.

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

[Quality Measures for Behavior Health Clinics - Technical Specifications and Resource Manual](#)