

## Subject: Screening, Assessment and Diagnosis

### Requirements

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1. **Programs Affected:** All CCBHC Demonstration participants.
2. **Background and Purpose:** Community Mental Health Clinics (CMHCs) designated by the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) as Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) are responsible for providing screening, assessment, and diagnosis, including risk assessment for behavioral health conditions in accordance with SAMHSA CCBHC Certification Criteria, either directly or via a Designated Collaborating Organization (DCO) partnership.<sup>1</sup> ***This implementation bulletin provides guidance to CCBHCs on Screening, Assessment and Diagnosis.***
3. **SAMHSA CCBHC Criteria Authority**
  - 3.1. SAMHSA CCBHC certification criterion 4.d.1 states, “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”.
  - 3.2. Criterion 4.d.2 requires “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”.
  - 3.3. Criterion 4.d.6 requires “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”.
  - 3.4. Criterion 4.d.7 requires “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.”
  - 3.5. Criterion 4.d.8 requires “The 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 identified more immediate threats the safety of the person receiving services, the CCBHC will take appropriate action as described in 2.b.1.”

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

#### **4. Alabama CCHBC Screening Tools- Required Quality Measures**

- 4.1. The ADMH has established a minimum set of required screening tools that CCBHCs will be required to use. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive. CCBHCs are free to determine whether other screening tools may be appropriate:
  - 4.1.1. PHQ9
  - 4.1.2. Accountable Health Communities Health Related Social Needs Screening Tool (2017)
  - 4.1.3. Accountable Health Communities Health Related Social Needs Screening Tool (2021)
  - 4.1.4. The Protocol for Responding to and Assessing Patient's Risks and Experiences (PRAPARE) Tool (2016)
  - 4.1.5. WellRx Questionnaire (2014)
  - 4.1.6. American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Screening Tool (2018)
  - 4.1.7. Audit C
  - 4.1.8. CRAFFT
  - 4.1.9. UNCOPE

#### **5. Scope of Screening, Assessment and Diagnosis**

- 5.1. The initial evaluation (including information gathered as part of the preliminary triage and risk assessment, with information releases obtained as needed), includes at a minimum:
  1. Preliminary diagnoses
  2. The source of referral
  3. The reason for seeking care, as stated by the person receiving services or other individuals who are significantly involved
  4. Identification of the immediate clinical care needs related to the diagnosis for mental and substance use disorders of the person receiving services
  5. A list of all current prescriptions and over-the counter medications, herbal remedies, and dietary supplements and the indication for any medications
  6. A summary of previous mental health and substance use disorder treatments with a focus on which treatments helped and were not helpful
  7. The use of any alcohol and/or other drugs the person receiving services may be taking and indication for any current medications
  8. An assessment of whether the person receiving services is a risk to self or to others, including suicide risk factors
  9. An assessment of whether the person receiving services has other concerns for their safety, such as intimate partner violence
  10. Assessment of need for medical care (with referral and follow-up as required)
  11. A determination of whether the person presently is, or ever has been, a member of the U.S. Armed Services
  12. For children and youth, whether they have system involvement (such as child welfare and juvenile justice)
- 5.2. Subject to more stringent state, federal, or applicable accreditation standards, all new people receiving services will receive a comprehensive evaluation to be completed within 60 calendar days of the first request for services. If the state has established independent screening and assessment processes for certain child and youth populations or other populations, the CCBHC should establish partnerships to incorporate findings and avoid duplication of effort. This



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requirement does not preclude the initiation or completion of the comprehensive evaluation, or the provision of treatment during the 60-day period.

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.

## Appendix A

### Required Clinic-Collected Measures

Measure Name and Designated Abbreviation	Steward
✓ Time to Services (I-SERV)	SAMHSA
✓ Depression Remission at Six Months (DEP-REM-6)	MN Community Measurement
✓ Preventive Care and Screening: Unhealthy Alcohol Use: Screening and Brief Counseling (ASC)	NCQA
✓ Screening for Clinical Depression and Follow-Up Plan (CDF-CH and CDF-AD)	CMS
✓ Screening for Social Drivers of Health (SDOH)	CMS