



# The SBIRT Program and the BNI/Brief Conversation: What They Are, How They Work, and What You Can Do

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# SBIRT Screening, Brief Intervention, & Referral to Treatment

**SBIRT** is a substance abuse prevention program in the ED, AUCC, Surgery and STI Clinics

- ◆ The emphasis for SBIRT is to *universally* screen incoming patients for un-healthy substance use and for a clinician to give feedback to the patient if they are engaging in risky use
- ◆ **The target population for this approach is the at-risk, not the dependent user**

Reminder: Please complete the SBIRT web-based training assigned to  
you,  
if you have not already done so

# SBIRT

## Screening, Brief Intervention, & Referral to Treatment

1. All incoming patients should be Screened for tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use
2. Un-healthy substance use should be addressed by a healthcare provider with a Brief Intervention, aka BNI or “Brief Conversation”
3. Addicted/dependent patients may also be Referred for appropriate Treatment





# Screening for Un-Healthy Substance Use

- ◆ There are two ways to get patients screened:
- ◆ At intake, aka triage, in the Central Evaluation Unit (CEU) via the Medical Screening Exam (MSE)
  - The “brief screen” is done in electronic format
  - The questions are the same as the bedside screen
- ◆ At the bedside
  - The “brief screen” can be administered on paper at bedside
  - The “brief screen” *can also* be administered electronically on a bedside computer

The next slide shows you the paper “brief screen” for bedside use

**DENVER HEALTH MEDICAL CENTER**  
**CONFIDENTIAL/ CONFIDENCIAL**  
**Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment**  
**SBIRT Screen**

Brief Screen Questions:

In the past 3 months, have you smoked or used any form of tobacco?

☐ Yes      ☐ No

En los últimos 3 meses, ¿ha fumado o usado usted algún tipo de tabaco?

☐ Sí      ☐ No

In the past 3 months, have you used any street drugs?

☐ Yes      ☐ No

En los últimos 3 meses, ¿ha usado usted alguna droga ilegal?

☐ Sí      ☐ No

In the past 3 months have you used any marijuana?

☐ Yes      ☐ No

En los últimos 3 meses, ¿ha usado usted marihuana?

☐ Sí      ☐ No

In the past 3 months, have you had more than 3 (for women) or 4 (for men) drinks in one day?

☐ Yes      ☐ No

En los últimos 3 meses, ¿ha tomado usted más de tres 3 tragos (si es mujer) o 4 tragos (si es hombre) en un día?

☐ Sí      ☐ No



# When there is no SBIRT screen in the charts:

- ◆ If there is no screen in the charts or if the information in the charts is inaccurate:
- ◆ You can go into EMeSIS and (re)administer the MSE

or



# Printing a Paper Screen

You can print a blank screen using EMeSIS:

- Click the patient name or room number
- From the dropdown list that appears, click “Print ED Form for This Patient”
- On the next dropdown list, click “SBIRT Form”  
(see next slide)
- The form will print on the nearest, local printer

Rm	LOS	Age/Gn	Pt Name	Lev	RN
R 4	4-74	4088	[REDACTED]		KC
R					KC
R					LM
R					LM
R					TL
R					
R					

<input type="checkbox"/>	LAB WORK for This Patient	
<input type="checkbox"/>	View/Print Medical Screening Exam	
<input type="checkbox"/>	View THIS ED LOG Record	
<input type="checkbox"/>	ED VISIT LIST For This Patient's DH #	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Go To Patient's EDM Medical Record	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Print ED Form for This Patient	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Print Discharge Instructions for This Patient	



# Screening for Un-Healthy Substance Use

- ◆ At MSE in the Central Evaluation Unit (CEU—aka “triage”)
  - This is done electronically
  - The questions are the same as the paper “brief screen”

The next slide shows you the results for an MSE “brief screen”



Pt Name: [REDACTED]

Age: 49Y

DHH# [REDACTED]

### Select Desired ED Patient Form To Print

ED Encounter Continuation  
ED Influenza Encounter  
Encounter for Unregistered Patients (APPLY LABEL)  
General Obs Note and Order Sheet  
BAT Obs Note and Order Sheet  
R/O Injury in Intox Pt. Note & Order sheet  
CP Low Risk Obs and Order Sheet  
CP VERY Low Risk Obs and Order Sheet  
Bronchiolitis Obs Sheet  
Attending Note  
Attending Note, Full (for students)  
Ultrasound Report & Image Sheets  
Attending Note for Unreg Patients (APPLY LABEL)  
Attending Continuation Sheet, Only  
Attending EKG/Additional Procedures Sheet  
Radiology Overread Addendum  
Discharge Instruction Sheet

**SBIRT Form**

Printing Form "SBIRT Form" On  
Local Station Printer

Form Printing Completed.

 Exit





# MSE Brief screen

## Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral [SBIRT]:

SBIRT positive based upon chief complaint / presentation.

1. Tobacco in past 3 months: Y
2. Street drugs in past 3 months: N
3. Marijuana use in past 3 months: N
4. More than 4 drinks in a day in past 3 months: N

SBIRT Screen: **POSITIVE**.

## Objective Data / Physical Examination

**Vital Signs:** BP: 100/63 Pulse: 83 Resp: 18 Temp: 36.5 (O) Oxy Sat: 93% on RA. <<<<<<<<<

**General Appearance:** Normal, Dry, Cool

**HEENT:** No Abnormalities., Pupils equal, Pupils reactive, holding head eyes closed

**Cardio/Resp:** BS: clear, Heart sounds normal, no distress

**GI/GU:** Abdomen soft, Abdomen non-tender to palpation

**Musculoskeletal:** No Abnormalities.

**Skin:** Normal

**Neuro:** reports blurry vision "from the pain"

**MSE Level:** 3 (ED-Emergent)

**Patient MSE Disposition:** To ED Wait

**MSE Screener:** s pulcino rn (Evaluated & signed by s pulcino rn at 01/02/11 22:21)

## Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral [SBIRT] Action for POSITIVE Screening:

\* Patient received a brief intervention by Health Provider(s) ☐ Yes ☐ No

\* Patient referred for further assessment/treatment ☐ Yes ☐ No

\* Summary of discussion:

Time spent with Patient:

Tobacco ☐ 3-10min ☐ 10+ min

Alcohol ☐ 15-30 min ☐ 30+ min

Substance ☐ 15-30 min ☐ 30+ min

☐ Attending or ☐ NP Signature Date/Time

Provider Signature ☐ RN ☐ MD ☐ MS Date/Time

Health Educator Signature Date/Time

# Results of the Brief Screen

- ◆ Some patients screened at bedside will have paper screens on the charts, and the results will be at the bottom of the screen itself:

**Any Yes is positive.** If positive, must write summary below:

- ◆ Walk-in ED patients will get screened via the MSE, and the results will be on the MSE sheet:

## Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral [SBIRT] Action for POSITIVE Screening:

- \* Patient received a brief intervention by Health Provider(s) ☐ Yes ☐ No
- \* Patient referred for further assessment/treatment ☐ Yes ☐ No
- \* Summary of discussion:  
Time spent with Patient:  
Tobacco ☐ 3-10min ☐ 10+ min  
Alcohol ☐ 15-30 min ☐ 30+ min  
Substance ☐ 15-30 min ☐ 30+ min




## **Patients benefit from a BNI/Brief Conversation!**

- ◆ **“Brief Conversation”**: What is it?

**Having a brief conversation with your patients about un-healthy substance by:**

- ◆ Raising the subject of their positive brief screen or
- ◆ Relating substance use with their ED visit, when relevant e.g. they were intoxicated on their presentation
- ◆ Providing feedback regarding NIAAA\* recommended limits or the ‘one visit while intoxicated data’
- ◆ Referring, if appropriate



Did you just ask yourself,  
“What are the ‘one visit while  
intoxicated’ data?”

- ◆ Davidson, et al noted that a single alcohol related ED visit is an important predictor of continued problem drinking, alcohol impaired driving, and, possibly, premature death

Davidson et al, Ann Emerg. Med. 1997



# Did you also ask yourself, “What are the NIAAA advisable limits?”

## ◆ Men

- No more than **4** drinks per occasion
- No more than **14** drinks per week

## ◆ Women

- No more than **3** drinks per occasion
- No more than **7** drinks in one week





## When to provide the Brief Conversation

- ◆ Any time the chart indicates a positive substance screen AND
- ◆ Especially when the patient's ED visit is a consequence of substance use (e.g. injuries or medical complications due to acute intoxication)
- ◆ Once an MD has provided the BC, they should document the chart appropriately



# How to get the “Brief Conversation” started

## Suggested Scripts

- ◆ You screened positive today for \_\_\_\_ on your Brief Screen, Can we talk about that for a minute?
- ◆ You were injured and possibly intoxicated at the time, can we talk about that for a minute?
- ◆ Have you ever had an injury while intoxicated?
- ◆ Research shows that one doctor visit while intoxicated or injury while high is a serious predictor of future injury, dui, job difficulties, or interpersonal problems. Could this be true for you?



# How to close the “Brief Conversation”

## Suggested Scripts

- ◆ We know from research that people who use at your levels may have trouble cutting back. Could this be true for you?
- ◆ If you find this to be true for you after a few weeks, will you consider giving the referral number a call?
- ◆ Will you promise me to think about our discussion today?
- ◆ Thanks for discussing such a sensitive topic.



What if the patient does not want to talk  
about their use/abuse ?



“ Okay, I see you aren’ t ready to talk  
about this today. Remember that we  
are here if you change your mind”



# Documenting the BNI

- ◆ After discussing unhealthy Substance use with patients, a healthcare provider should then fill in appropriate notes & instructions in the charts
- ◆ Pictured at right is part of the “Physicians Record” sheet—boxes indicating that an EtOH screen and/or referral was done should be checked, & this section should be circled
- ◆ Additional documentation is covered in the following slides

Time Seen: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tob: \_\_\_\_\_  
EtOH: \_\_\_\_\_  
Oth Soc Hx: \_\_\_\_\_

ROS: \_\_\_\_\_  
HEENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
Derm/All: \_\_\_\_\_  
Den: \_\_\_\_\_  
Resp: \_\_\_\_\_  
CV: \_\_\_\_\_  
GI: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hem: \_\_\_\_\_  
MS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Endo: \_\_\_\_\_  
GU: \_\_\_\_\_  
Neuro: \_\_\_\_\_  
Psych: \_\_\_\_\_

PMHx: \_\_\_\_\_  
Surg Hx: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fam Hx: \_\_\_\_\_  
Social History: \_\_\_\_\_  
EtOH Screen Done ☐  
EtOH Referral ☐

↑  
**Circle and check boxes, as needed**

# Documenting the BNI

- ◆ Attending/Resident/Intern/Students MDs, after documenting the Brief Conversation as shown below, need to circle as shown in the picture to the right, this will alert the Attending to sign off for billing

Time Seen:
Tob:
EtOH:
Oth Soc Hx:
ROS:
HEENT:
Derm/All:
Den:
Resp:
CV:
GI:
Hem:
MS:
Endo:
GU:
Neuro:
Psych:
PMHx:
Surg Hx:
Fam Hx:
Social History Hx <input type="checkbox"/>
EtOH Screen Done <input type="checkbox"/>
EtOH Referral <input type="checkbox"/>

**Circle and check boxes, as needed**

## Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral [SBIRT] Action for POSITIVE Screening:

- \* Patient received a brief intervention by Health Provider(s)
- \* Patient referred for further assessment/treatment
- \* Summary of discussion:

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

Time spent with Patient:

Tobacco ☐ 3-10min ☐ 10+ min

Alcohol ☐ 15-30 min ☐ 30+ min

Substance ☐ 15-30 min ☐ 30+ min

☐ Attending or ☐ NP Signature Date/Time

Provider Signature ☐ RN ☐ MD ☐ MS Date/Time

Health Educator Signature Date/Time

# Documenting SBI

- ◆ Notes on the Brief Screen should show that a patient received Screening and Brief Intervention from a healthcare provider for the substances discussed; notes should include a brief narrative and if the patient was referred for treatment
- ◆ An MD should check off on how much time was spent\* with the patient; the provider and attending MD should both sign off to verify this information
- ◆ If the attending MD is the sole provider of the BI—the “Brief Conversation”—that person need only sign off here for verification

## Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral [SBIRT] Action for POSITIVE Screening:

- \* Patient received a brief intervention by Health Provider(s) ☐ Yes ☐ No
  - \* Patient referred for further assessment/treatment ☐ Yes ☐ No
  - \* Summary of discussion:
- Time spent with Patient:
- |           |                                    |                                  |
|-----------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Tobacco   | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-10min   | <input type="checkbox"/> 10+ min |
| Alcohol   | <input type="checkbox"/> 15-30 min | <input type="checkbox"/> 30+ min |
| Substance | <input type="checkbox"/> 15-30 min | <input type="checkbox"/> 30+ min |

☐ Attending or ☐ NP Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Provider Signature ☐ RN ☐ MD ☐ MS \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Health Educator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Time spent also includes brief screen completion, Brief Conversation, Health Educator time( if here) and discharge instructions related to Un-healthy substance use





# SBIRT Services

- ◆ Denver Health currently has a grant to implement SBIRT services
- ◆ These duties are performed by SBIRT Health Educators—specially trained staff who provide a more in-depth screen on patients & talk to them about substance misuse
- ◆ Health Educators are not on duty 24-7, so
- ◆ **ED doctors and nurses play crucial roles!**

# Accessing SBIRT info on EMeSIS

In the “Pending/Plan/Notes” column, you may see a note that the SBIRT Conversation is needed.

In the “New Orders” Column, a yellow “S” indicates that the brief screen needs to be administered by an, RN, MD, or other provider

Peds: 16	Disas: 0	Eva
Pending/Plan/Notes		
SBIRT Convrstn Needed <13:51>		
[]labs []surgery <13:08>		
[]UA/UPT <13:36>..[]labs []CTH []CTCsp [] []Big 3 []CT A/P <13:09>		
[-]labs [-]XR []CTH []CTCSp <11:19>		
Admit. ASDV <13:20> []labs []Inscr <13:1		

New Orders			
Rx	Lb	Prc	XR
S			





Remember:

Just start the Conversation  
Maybe save a life !