

Unhealthy Alcohol Use — Screening

*This measure is to be reported for all patients aged 18 years and older seen by the clinician — a minimum of **once** per reporting period.*

Measure description

Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older who were screened for unhealthy alcohol use using a systematic screening method within 24 months

What will you need to report for each patient aged 18 years and older for this measure?

If you select this measure for reporting, you will report:

- Whether or not you screened for unhealthy alcohol use¹ using a systematic screening method within 24 months

What if this process or outcome of care is not appropriate for your patient?

There may be times when it is not appropriate to screen for unhealthy alcohol use, due to:

- Medical reasons (eg, limited life expectancy)

In these cases, you will need to indicate that the medical reason applies, and specify the reason on the worksheet and in the medical chart. The office/billing staff will then report a code with a modifier that represents these valid reasons (also called exclusions).

¹Unhealthy alcohol use covers a spectrum that is associated with varying degrees of risk to health. Categories representing unhealthy alcohol use include risky use, problem drinking, harmful use, and alcohol abuse, and the less common but more severe alcoholism and alcohol dependence. Risky use is defined as > 7 standard drinks per week or > 3 drinks per occasion for women and persons > 65 years of age; > 14 standard drinks per week or > 4 drinks per occasion for men ≤ 65 years of age.