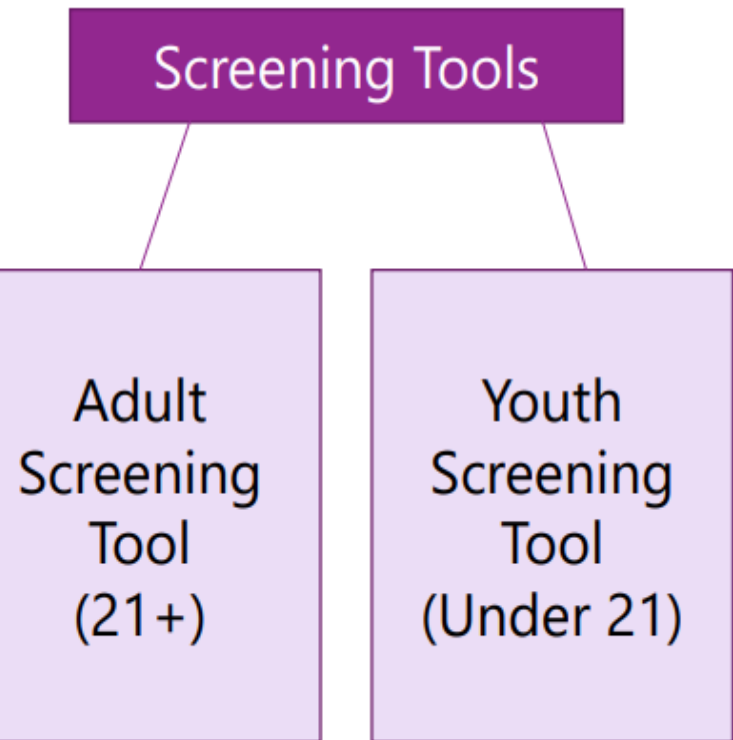


Mental Health Youth Screening Tool Adult Screening Tool Training

Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health
February, 2023

Purpose of Screening Tools

- ❖ Standardize timely mental health screening for Medi-Cal beneficiaries across the state of California
- ❖ Provide a guide for mental health referrals to the appropriate Medi-Cal mental health delivery system



There are two screening tools:

- Youth Screening Tool (under age 21)
- Adult Screening Tool (age 21 and over)

Which providers must use the screening tool?

- ☐ Providers who work for the Mental Health Plan (MHP; County of Santa Cruz)
- ☐ Providers who work for the Managed Care Plan (MCP; Beacon / Integrated Behavioral Health (IBH), etc.)

Which providers do NOT have to use the screening tool?

- ☐ Providers who do NOT work for the Mental Health Plan (MHP; County of Santa Cruz) or MCP (Beacon / IBH)

Which beneficiaries must be screened with the screening tool?

- ☐ Beneficiaries who are NOT currently receiving mental health services when they contact the Mental Health Plan (County Behavioral Health) or the Managed Care Plan (Beacon) seeking mental health services
- ☐ Youth who are NOT currently receiving mental health services for whom an adult requested services on their behalf from the MHP or MCP

The Screening Tool does NOT replace:

- ❖ MHP response to urgent or emergency care needs
- ❖ MHP clinical assessment, level of care determination and service recommendation
- ❖ MHP requirement to provide EPDST services
- ❖ MHP protocols that address clinically appropriate, timely access to care

Completion of the Adult or Youth Screening tool is *not* considered an assessment.

Once a beneficiary is referred to the MHP or MCP, they shall receive an assessment to determine medical necessity for mental health services.

A release of information is not required for a referral in the context of facilitating client care.

Where can I find the Screening Tool?

❖ Paper Version: DHCS website: [HERE](#)

❖ Avatar Forms:

Adult Screening Tool

Youth Screening Tool

Search Forms
screening

Name	Menu Path
Adult Screening Tool	Avatar PM / Assessments
Youth Screening Tool	Avatar PM / Assessments
Order Entry Clinical Screening System Defaults	Avatar CWS / Order Entry / Order Entry System Definitions
Medication Re-Screening	Avatar CWS / Order Entry / Order Entry Client Information

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screening

When do I complete the Screening Tool?

❖ DHCS guidance = January 1, 2023

❖ County of Santa Cruz = March 1, 2023

Description of the Screening Tools

The Tools are designed to capture information necessary for identification of initial indicators of a beneficiary's mental health needs for the purpose of determining where the beneficiary will likely receive services, either the Mental Health Plan (moderate to severe) or the Managed Care Plan (mild to moderate)

Adult Screening Tool (21 years and older)

Questions designed to elicit information regarding:

- ❖ Safety
- ❖ Clinical Experiences
- ❖ Life Circumstances
- ❖ Risk
- ❖ Potential Substance Use Disorder
 - ❖ May result in ASAM Brief

Youth Screening Tool (Under 21 years)

Questions designed to elicit information regarding:

- ❖ Safety
- ❖ System Involvement
 - ❖ foster care, child welfare, juvenile justice, homelessness
- ❖ Life Circumstances
- ❖ Risk
- ❖ Potential Substance Use Disorder
- ❖ Connection to primary care
 - ❖ May result in ASAM Brief

Administration of the Screening Tools

- ❖ **Clients should be engaged / included in the process**
- ❖ Appropriate verbal consent and/or Releases of Information (ROI) should be obtained in accordance with accepted standards of clinical practice.
- ❖ A release of information is not required for a referral in the context of facilitating client care.
- ❖ The Screening Tool
 - ❖ may be administered by a clinician or a non-clinician
 - ❖ may be completed In-Person, by Telephone, via Telehealth
 - ❖ May NOT be altered in any way (including specific wording, the order of the questions, the order of all fields)

Scoring of the Tools

The client's score determines whether a beneficiary will be referred to the Mental Health Plan (MHP, moderate to severe) or the Managed Care Plan (MCP, mild to moderate) for assessment and medically necessary services.

- » Each scored question in the Adult and Youth Screening Tools has a defined number of points for the selected answer.
- » The total score determines the Medi-Cal mental health delivery system the individual should be referred to for assessment.
 - » Individuals must be referred to the appropriate Medi-Cal mental health delivery system based on their score.
 - » Screening Tool administrators cannot override the score and make their own determination for referral.

Adult Screening Tool Scoring

1. Each scored question is a "Yes" or "No" question. Not every question is scored.
2. Each scored question has a defined number of points for the selected answer. The number of points for each question cannot be more or less than what is on the scoresheet.
3. Select/mark the number in the "Yes" or "No" column based on the response provided.
4. If the individual is unable or chooses not to answer a question, skip the question and score it as "0."
5. If the individual responds "Yes" to question 11, the screener must immediately offer and coordinate a referral to a clinician for further evaluation of suicidality after the screening is completed. Referral coordination should include sharing the completed Adult Screening Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services. The referral and subsequent clinical evaluation may or may not impact the mental health delivery system referral generated by the screening score.

Adult Screening Tool Scoring

6. A response of “Yes” to question 13 or 14 does not impact the screening score. If the individual responds “Yes” to question 13 or question 14, the screener must offer and coordinate a referral to the county behavioral health plan for substance use disorder assessment in addition to the mental health delivery system referral generated by the screening score. The individual may decline this referral without impact to the mental health delivery system referral.
7. Once responses to questions have been documented, the selected/marked numbers in the “Yes” column should be added together and that total number should be entered in the “Total Score” box.
 - a. Individuals with a total score of 0 – 5 must be referred to the MCP for a clinical assessment.
 - b. Individuals with a total score of 6 and above must be referred to the MHP for a clinical assessment.

Youth Screening Tool Scoring

1. There are two versions of the Youth Screening Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services:
 - **Youth Screening Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services: *Youth Respondent*** is used when a youth is responding on their own behalf.
 - **Youth Screening Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services: *Respondent on Behalf of Youth*** is used when a person is responding on behalf of the youth.
2. The answer to screening question 2 determines which version of the tool is used.

Youth Screening Tool

Date of Screening: 02/06/2023 [T] [Y] []

NOTE: If age 21 or older, switch to the "Adult Screening Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services."

1. Is this an emergency or crisis situation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

NOTE: If yes, do not finish the screening and handle according to existing emergency or crisis protocols.

2. Are you calling about yourself or about someone else?

☐ Self ☒ Someone Else

If calling about Self, proceed to the "Youth Respondent" section of the form.

If calling about someone else, who are you calling about and what is your relationship to them?

If calling about someone else, proceed to the "Respondent on Behalf of Youth" section of the form.

Youth Screening Tool Scoring

3. Each scored question is a "Yes" or "No" question. Not every question is scored.
4. Each scored question has a defined number of points for the selected answer. The number of points for each question cannot be more or less than what is on the scoresheet.
5. Select/mark the number in the "Yes" or "No" column based on the response provided.
6. If the youth, or the person responding on their behalf, is unable or chooses not to answer a question, skip the question and score it as "0."
7. If a response to question 5 indicates that a child who is age 3 or younger has not seen a pediatrician in the last 6 months, or that a child/youth age 4 or older has not seen a pediatrician or primary care physician (PCP) in the last year, the screener must offer to connect them to their MCP for a pediatrician/ PCP visit in addition to the mental health delivery system referral generated by the screening score.

Youth Screening Tool Scoring

8. If the youth, or the person responding on their behalf, responds “Yes” to question 6, 7, or 9, they meet criteria for specialty mental health services per [BHIN 21-073](#). In these cases, the screening is not required, and the screener must offer and coordinate a referral for clinical assessment by the MHP. Referral coordination must include follow up to ensure an assessment has been made available to the individual. Please reference [BHIN 21-073](#) for additional detail on specialty mental health services criteria and definitions of key terminology.
9. If the youth, or the person responding on their behalf, responds “Yes” to question 19, 20, or 21, the screener must immediately offer and coordinate a referral to a clinician for further evaluation of suicidality and/or homicidality after the screening is completed. Referral coordination should include sharing the completed Youth Screening Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services. The referral and subsequent clinical evaluation may or may not impact the mental health delivery system referral generated by the screening score.

Youth Screening Tool Scoring

10. A response of "Yes" to question 17 does not impact the screening score. If the youth, or the person responding on their behalf, responds "Yes" to question 17, the screener must offer and coordinate a referral to the county behavioral health plan for substance use disorder assessment in addition to the mental health delivery system referral generated by the screening score. The individual may decline this referral without impact to the mental health delivery system referral.
11. Once responses to all questions have been documented, the selected/marked numbers in the "Yes" column should be added together and that total number should be entered in the "Total Score" box.
 - a. Individuals with a total score of 0 – 5 must be referred to the MCP for a clinical assessment.
 - b. Individuals with a total score of 6 and above must be referred to the MHP for a clinical assessment.

Next Steps:

After the Screening Tool is completed, the clinical team will coordinate directly with the correct mental health delivery system (MHP or MCP).

If referred to MHP:

- ❖ A timely assessment will be offered

If referred to MCP:

- ❖ MHPs shall coordinate the client's services with MCP, including sharing the completed Screening Tool
- ❖ MHPs shall facilitate the referral, including:
 - ❖ Informing the client of the referral and gaining their consent
 - ❖ Ensuring that the referral process has been completed
 - ❖ Ensuring the client has been offered a timely assessment with the MCP

Screening Tools: Common FAQs

Question	Yes/No
Are Screening Tools different from clinical assessments?	Yes
Can the wording and order of screening questions be changed?	No
Can questions be added to the Screening Tools?	No
Can MCPs and MHPs require providers to use the Screening Tools?	No
Are screeners required to complete a referral to the delivery system indicated by the screening score?	Yes
Are the Screening Tools and the Transition of Care Tool intended to be used together?	No
Will DHCS be providing translated versions of the Screening Tools?	Yes

Administration of the Tool

Spanish Speaking Clients / Non-English Clients

- ❖ **Santa Cruz County threshold language = Spanish**
- ❖ **DHCS has not yet released translated Screening & Transition Tools**
DHCS will be releasing translated tools (no date for this has been provided)
- ❖ **Beginning March 1, 2023 – Access is piloting provision of the Screening Tool in Spanish**
 - ❖ **More details to come**
- ❖ **For Non-English / Non-Spanish speakers, the Language Line will be utilized to provide the screening in the client's preferred language**

NOTE: Once DHCS has provided translated versions of the tools, MHP / MCP may only deviate from the wording in those translated versions if they, or an entity on their behalf, have facilitated additional testing of translations in the local community that indicates the need for associated shifts in language to meet beneficiary needs.

Screening Form Demonstration

State of California – Health and Human Services Agency		Department of Health Care Services
Adult Screening Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services		
Name:	Date of Birth:	
Age:	<i>NOTE: If age 20 or younger, switch to the "Youth Screening Tool for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services."</i>	
Medi-Cal Number (CIN):		
1. Is this an emergency or crisis situation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<i>NOTE: If yes, do not finish the screening and handle according to existing emergency or crisis protocols.</i>		
2. Can you tell me the reason you are seeking mental health services today?		
3. Are you currently receiving mental health treatment? • If yes, where are you receiving those services?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<i>NOTE: If the individual is currently receiving mental health services from their MCP or MHP, do not finish the screening. Instead, connect them with their current provider for further assessment.</i>		

Adult and Children's BH Access Screening Tool Workflow

- Complete Screening Tool Adult (21+) or Youth (<21)
- Score 6 or above-offer and schedule Access assessment
 - Proceed with all Access assessment procedures and documentation
- Score of 0-5 refer to Managed Care Plan (MCP) Beacon
 - Inform client of referral
 - Submit referral to Beacon by email or fax
 - Documentation may include progress note and/or SRADL
 - Follow up with Beacon or to ensure timely assessment offered
 - Follow up by contacting client if applicable
 - Ensure all documentation is completed

Resources

- BHIN 22-065 Adult and Youth Screening and Transition of Care Tools for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services: [HERE](#)
- DHCS Screening & Transition of Care Tools webpage: [HERE](#)
- DHCS Screening & Transition of Care Tools Technical Assistance Slide Deck: [HERE](#)

Thank you

Quality Improvement

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