

Appendix J. Reimbursement and coverage of substance abuse services for pregnant women

SBIRT counseling in the prenatal care setting:

North Carolina Medicaid covers two CPT codes associated with SBIRT counseling:

- CPT 99408 – Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured screening and brief intervention services; 15-30 minutes
- CPT 99409 – Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured screening and brief intervention services; greater than 30 minutes

These codes can be billed in addition to prenatal care services, including the global fee or other OB package codes, and in addition to tobacco cessation counseling codes. These codes can be billed by physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives, and health departments. More information is available at the SBIRT NC website:

<http://www.sbirtnc.org/reimbursement-in-north-carolina/>

Coverage of substance abuse treatment for pregnant patients:

Substance abuse and behavioral health services are covered for pregnant Medicaid beneficiaries, including for women in the Medicaid for Pregnant Women (MPW) category. All pregnant women with Medicaid coverage, regardless of coverage category, are exempt from co-payments for pregnancy-related services, including prescription drugs and behavioral health. For details, see the February 2013 NC DMA Provider Bulletin article “Psychiatric Services Available to Pregnant Medicaid Beneficiaries” at

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/bulletin/pdfbulletin/0213bulletin.pdf>

Buprenorphine coverage:

North Carolina Medicaid covers buprenorphine as part of the pharmacy benefit. This medication requires prior approval. The simple, one-page “NC DMA Pharmacy Request for Prior Approval – Suboxone, Zubsolv and generic buprenorphine” form can be found on the NC Tracks website: <https://www.nctracks.nc.gov/content/public/providers/pharmacy/forms.html> (listed under “Suboxone”). Therapy can be approved for up to 12 months at a time.