The Missing Piece: Holistic Care through Preventive Screenings
Mental Health Preventive Screenings

Mental and behavioral health needs are often overlooked in today’s healthcare settings.

In part, our system is not designed for preventive measures. Instead, we focus on mental health care only when reacting to a need gone unchecked.

Yet each year, an estimated $300 billion* is spent on serious mental illnesses – among the top 5 most costly healthcare expenditures that could be avoided or limited with preventive screenings.

With a combination of better access to preventive screenings and better awareness, we can positively impact the 1 in 5 adults who experience mental illness each year, and change the lives of the 1 in 25 individuals who live with an ongoing mental health condition.

*All statistics cited were sourced from NIMH (National Institute of Mental Health), SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), CDC (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention), NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse), and the United States Department of Veteran Affairs
Screening Health Risk

While there is no fail-safe way to determine if someone is at risk for a mental or behavioral health condition, screenings offer a barometer to ‘score’ a patient’s health risk – determining the level at which that patient may be prone to a mental or behavioral health need.

Scoring systems vary, but give healthcare professionals an objective means to measure their patients’ needs. Scoring of health risk is just that – a risk identifier, not a diagnosis or definitive classification.

By using scoring tools, providers can use their patients health risk classification as a starting point to better determine their care needs and deliver a more holistic care plan.

“Clinical preventive services, including suicide assessment and preventive screening by primary care and other health care providers, are crucial to assessing suicide risk and connecting individuals at risk for suicide to available clinical services and other sources of care.”

2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention

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Common Screenings

Many different screening types exist, scoring health risk for more commonly identified mental or behavioral health needs, such as:

- **Somatic Symptom**
- **Alcohol Risk**
- **Opioid Abuse**
- **Depression**
- **Anxiety**

A patient’s health risk is identified based on their responses, ranked in conjunction with research and generalized patient data, to determine similarities to and potential risk for a mental health condition.

The United States Preventive Services Task Force has endorsed screening for depression and alcohol misuse, now covered as preventive services under Medicare and most common payers. Ability to bill for these services promotes their use in eligible providers offices by adding new revenue for physician practices.
Specialized Screenings

Other, more specific screenings are available that encompass particular groups’ needs, including:

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Postnatal Depression

These screenings offer a particular group – returning soldiers or new mothers – specific assessments for their needs.

With a more custom focus, offices that serve these populations can better protect their patients’ needs and add health data otherwise missing from patient care plans.

Many experiencing postnatal depression or PTSD are more susceptible to other mental or behavioral health needs as well, such as alcohol misuse or depression.

The United States Preventive Services Task Force has also endorsed screening new mothers for postnatal depression, recognizing the risk and needs of this particular population.
WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR YOUR PATIENTS?

By adding mental & behavioral health screenings to your regular patient routine, providers can better diagnose and care for their patients needs, providing more holistic care and adding to their bottom line. With assessURhealth™ you can:

✓ Gain revenue through three billable codes.
✓ Add valuable health data to your care plan and patient diagnosis.
✓ Deliver an objective assessment of patients’ needs and a helpful tool to start the mental health conversation.
✓ Reduce staff resources through a tablet-driven assessment with no manual data entry or additional staff time needed.
✓ Meet MIPS reporting requirements.

Want to add new revenue while providing enhanced patient care?

Contact assessURhealth at 202-449-9646 or via email at info@assessurhealth.com

About assessURhealth™

assessURhealth offers a proprietary mental and behavioral health screening application to clinicians, trade associations, higher education institutes, government entities and more. Customized reporting captures key risk classification data on depression, anxiety, somatic symptom, alcohol and opioid abuse, postpartum and PTSD, directly engaging respondents through a tablet-based self-assessment. To learn more about assessURhealth or apply to be a distribution partner, visit our website at assessURhealth.com.

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