

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

**ACTION REFERRAL**

TO <i>Meyers</i>	DATE <i>8-7-08</i>
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<b>DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY</b>	<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>
1. LOG NUMBER  <i>000074</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR  <i>cc: Ms. Farkner</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>8-18-08</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action
<i>Cleared 8/25/08, letter attached.</i>	

APPROVALS <small>(Only when prepared for director's signature)</small>	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE <small>(Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)</small>	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

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1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY  
Washington, D. C. 20503

**RECEIVED**  
AUG 06 2008  
Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

August 4, 2008

Ms. Emma Forkner  
Department of Health & Human Services  
P. O. Box 8206  
1801 Main Street  
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Dear Ms. Forkner,

In support of the President's Drug Control Strategy, we are requesting information regarding the adoption of 2 Healthcare Common Procedures Coding System codes—H0049 and H0050—in the State of South Carolina. Your response will assist ONDCP's effort to implement Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment programs and in our collective efforts to reduce drug use. Our office appreciates your cooperation with this important endeavor.

Please complete the enclosed survey with the appropriate answers to the questions, based on the most current information available to you on whether your State has adopted codes H0049 and H0050, how these codes will be used, and your State's experience in implementing the codes.

Because this information is being compiled along with other cooperating States, your reply within 30 days of the date of this letter would be much appreciated. Please note, due to increased security measures regarding White House mail delivery, we are asking for responses via e-mail or fax to Meredith DeFraitres of my staff ([mdefraitres@ondcp.eop.gov](mailto:mdefraitres@ondcp.eop.gov) or fax to 202-395-5571). If your staff has any questions regarding this data collection request, please contact Meredith DeFraitres at 202-395-5276. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Jon E. Rice  
Associate Director  
for Performance and Budget

Enclosures

*Logi Myers*  
*App'd Sign.*  
*cc: Ms. Forkner*

## CMS Survey

### Introduction

The purpose of this survey is to ascertain whether your State has adopted two new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention (SBI), and to determine factors that may inhibit State adoption of these codes. Substance abuse is one of our Nation's most significant public health challenges. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (2006) estimates that 95.5% of the population with a diagnosable substance abuse/addiction disorder is unaware of this condition and does not seek treatment.

To address this challenge and improve access to screening for this disorder, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) created two HCPCS codes – H0049 and H0050. These codes became effective January 1, 2007 and can be used by health care providers and States to pay for SBI services if State Medicaid programs choose to make SBI a covered benefit.

Please fill in the name of your state here:

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### Survey

Please complete the following questions:

- 1a) Has your state turned on Medicaid Codes H0049 and H0050 for screening and brief intervention for substance abuse?
- Yes  
Please go to question 1b and then 3.
- No  
Please go to question 2.
- 1b) Have providers in your State submitted claims for reimbursement for these codes?
- Yes
- No
- 2) Does your state plan to turn on these two codes?
- Yes      When? \_\_\_\_\_
- No      What are the key factors for your State's decision not to turn on the codes?  
(Please check all that apply.)



*State of South Carolina*  
*Department of Health and Human Services*

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Emma Forkner  
Director

August 25, 2008

Mr. Jon E. Rice  
Associate Director  
Performance and Budget  
Office of National Drug Control Policy  
Washington, District of Columbia 20503

Dear Mr. Rice:

Thank you for your letter and survey regarding the President's Drug Control Strategy as it relates to Healthcare Common Procedures Coding System codes H0049 and H0050. We have attached the survey responses, which outlines the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) commitment to this strategy.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Valeria Williams, Division Director in Physician Services, at (803) 898-2660 if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emma Forkner".

Emma Forkner  
Deputy Director

EF/mgws

Enclosure

Log # 74



## CMS Survey

### Introduction

The purpose of this survey is to ascertain whether your State has adopted two new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention (SBI), and determine factors that may inhibit State adoption of these codes. Substance abuse is one of our Nation's most significant public health challenges. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (2006) estimates that 95.5% of the population with a diagnosable substance abuse/addiction disorder is unaware of this condition and does not seek treatment.

To address this challenge and improve access to screening for this disorder, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) created two HCPCS codes-H0049 and H0050. These codes became effective January 1, 2007 and can be used by health care providers and States to pay for SBI services if State Medicaid programs choose to make SBI a covered benefit.

Please fill in the name of your state here:  
**South Carolina**

### Survey

Please complete the following questions:

1a) Has your state turned on Medicaid Codes H0049 and H0050 for screening and brief intervention for substance abuse?

Yes

Please go to question 1b and then 3.

No

Please go to question 2.

1b) Have providers in your State submitted claims for reimbursement for these codes?

Yes

No

2) Does your state plan to turn on these two codes?

Yes      When? 10-1-2008

No What are the key factors for your State's decision not to turn on the codes?  
(Please check all that apply.)

- Did not know codes were available
  - Fiscal constraints
  - Did not want to expand substance abuse services
  - Other ( Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) If your State has turned on, or plans to turn on the codes, does your State intend to conduct universal screening?
- Yes (Go to question 5.)
  - No (Go to questions 4a and 4b.)

4a) Since your state does not intend to conduct universal screening, do you intend to focus use of these procedural codes on specific populations? If targeting specific populations, please check all that apply below.

- Yes
  - Patient in emergency departments and trauma centers
  - Mothers
  - Women at risk for HIV
  - Other (Please specify)
- No

4b) Is your state implementing these codes in a pilot program (i.e., will the codes be implemented only in designated geographic areas)?

- Yes
- No

5) Does your state conduct a formal assessment of substance abuse prevalence?  
\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Universal screening programs target the entire population rather than focusing on specific sectors of the population.

Yes

Which data source do you use?

- National Survey on Drug Use and Health
- State-Level Survey
- Other (Please specify)
- No

6) Do UPPPL <sup>(2)</sup> laws influence the decision-making process regarding substance abuse-related services and benefits in your state?

- Yes
- No

7) CMS provide information to your State regarding the new codes?

- Yes
- No

7a) Was the information provided to your state helpful in understanding the new codes?

- Yes
- No

7b) Was the information provided to your State helpful in implementing the new codes?

- Yes
- No

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<sup>2</sup> Uniform Accident and Sickness Policy Provision Law (UPPL) allows insurance carriers to deny benefits to a patient whose injuries or conditions occurred when he or she was intoxicated.

- 8) If your state requested assistance from CMS in understanding and/or implementing the codes, was the information you received:

Useful to you?

- Yes
- No

Provided in a timely manner?

- Yes
- No