

## **Summary of the Performance Measure for Brief Intervention in the U.S. Veterans Health Administration**

The U.S. Veterans Health Administration's performance measure for brief intervention is measured based on the percent of patients screened for unhealthy alcohol use with the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test Consumption (AUDIT-C) questionnaire who meet or exceed a threshold score of 5 who have timely brief intervention (brief intervention documented within 14 days of the positive screen).

For eligible patients to be considered as having received acceptable brief intervention, two essential components must be documented: 1) feedback linking drinking to health, and 2) advice to abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages or to drink within specified recommended limits. Feedback linking drinking to health may be either personalized counseling regarding the relationship of alcohol to the patient's specific health issues *or* general alcohol-related counseling regarding the relationship of alcohol to health (not linked to patient issues). Although referral to specialty care may also be appropriate for some patients, screening and routine referral without documented brief intervention is not sufficient to satisfy the performance measure.

**Source:** *Veterans Health Administration, Office of Analytics and Business Intelligence, Technical Manual for the VHA Performance Measurement System. 2009.*