

DOCUMENTATION

Related to Military Sexual Trauma

Military sexual trauma (MST) is sexual assault or repeated, threatening sexual harassment that occurs during a Veteran's military service. MST can occur on or off base and while a Veteran is on or off duty. Perpetrators can be men or women, military personnel or civilians, commanding officers or subordinates, strangers, friends, or intimate partners.

All Veterans should be screened for MST. Document this with the MST clinical reminder.

Screening should be done by a healthcare professional in a private location and must be documented using the MST clinical reminder in CPRS. The screen only needs to be completed once, but even if a Veteran has previously been screened, it may be helpful to include questions about MST in all mental health intakes as Veterans may be more open to disclosure when meeting with a mental health provider. To complete the clinical reminder, begin a progress note then click on the "Reminders" bar on the lower left side of the screen. Find the "MST Screening" reminder – if it is not visible, check the "Applicable" folder or, in the "Other" folder, the "Mental Health" folder. Double click to open

the reminder, then complete the questions. Note that if a Veteran's clinical reminder has already been completed but needs to be changed, such as if he/she discloses MST once engaged in treatment, you can follow this same process to re-complete and update the reminder.

All care (including medications) for mental and physical health conditions related to MST is provided free of charge. Document MST-related care with the encounter form checkbox.

Entering a "yes" response to the MST clinical reminder activates the MST checkbox in a Veteran's encounter forms. If in the healthcare provider's clinical opinion a given visit involved treatment for conditions related to MST, this should be indicated by checking the MST checkbox on the encounter form associated with the visit. This notifies your facility's billing office that the Veteran should not be charged for the visit.

Note:

The MST clinical reminder and encounter form checkbox are used by the Office of Mental Health Services and the MST Support Team to evaluate local screening, referral, and treatment. If they wish, facilities may also choose to use purpose of visit code 55 to monitor fee basis MST-related care. However, this should be in addition to, not instead of, the use of the MST encounter form checkbox. Use of clinic stop code 524 is not recommended as an indicator for MST-related care because it cannot capture the full range of MST-related care that a Veteran receives, given that services may be provided through both physical and mental health clinics.