

CAGE-AID Substance Abuse Screening Tool

The CAGE-AID is a commonly used, four-question tool to screen for drug and alcohol use. It is a quick questionnaire to help determine if an alcohol assessment is needed. If a person answers “yes” to two or more questions, a complete assessment is advised, including a complete alcohol overuse disorder (AOD) history, and a referral to a specialist and/or resources like Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).

Ask your patients these four questions and use the scoring method described below to determine if substance abuse exists and needs to be addressed.

Questions

1	Have you ever felt you ought to cut down on your drinking or drug use?
2	Have people annoyed you by criticizing your drinking or drug use?
3	Have you felt bad or guilty about your drinking or drug use?
4	Have you ever had a drink or used drugs first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or to get rid of a hangover (eye-opener)?

Scoring: Item responses on the CAGE-AID questions are scored 0 for “no” and 1 for “yes” answers, with a higher score being an indication of alcohol problems. A total score of two or greater is considered clinically significant.

***The normal cutoff for the CAGE-AID is two positive answers, however, it is recommended that primary care clinicians lower the threshold to one positive answer to cast a wider net and identify more patients who may have a substance use disorder. A number of other screening tools are available.

GA-MED-P-786051

Approved: 8/9/21