

DESCRIPTION OF ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS

ALCOHOL USE DISORDERS IDENTIFICATION TEST

Purpose: Early detection of hazardous and harmful alcohol use and alcohol dependence

Population: Adults and adolescents

Acronym: AUDIT

Scoring: Questions 1-8 are scored from 0-4 points and questions 9 and 10 are scored 0, 2, or 4 points.

Scores: 7 or more in women or 8 or more in men is associated with harmful or hazardous drinking. A score of 13 or more in women, and 15 or more in men, is likely to indicate alcohol dependence

Administration: Self-assessment or interviewer-led assessment

Author: Multiple collaborators on WHO Collaborative Project on Early Detection of Persons with Harmful Alcohol Consumption

Publisher: World Health Organization, Division of Mental Health & Prevention of Substance Abuse, CH-1211, Geneva 27, Switzerland

Description: The AUDIT is a 10-item screening questionnaire with 3 questions on the amount and frequency of drinking, 3 questions on alcohol dependence, and 4 on problems caused by alcohol. The AUDIT has a decision process that includes brief intervention with heavy drinkers, or referral to specialized treatment for patients who show evidence of more serious alcohol involvement. AUDIT Core Instrument is useful for early detection of harmful drinking, while AUDIT Clinical Instrument is used for the identification of alcohol dependent cases. There is an optional Clinical Screening Procedure, consisting of two questions about traumatic injury, five items on clinical examination, and a blood test, the serum GGT. The Clinical Screening Procedure may be relevant for defensive patients in situations where alcohol-specific questions cannot be asked with confidence. It has been validated in primary care settings in six different countries, and tested in drug users, emergency room settings, people of low socioeconomic status. The sensitivity is in the 90 % and the specificity is in the 80%. AUDIT was found to be a good predictor of alcohol-related social and medical problems.

Administration Time: 2 min

Literacy Level: Easy

Version: Many languages including Bulgarian, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Nigerian dialects, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, and Turkish.

References:

Babor, T.F., Biddle-Higgins, J.C., Saunders, J.B. & Monteiro, M.G. (2001). AUDIT: The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test: Guidelines for Use in Primary Health Care, Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization.