

Alcohol Screening Tools

Screening Tool	Audit	Audit-C	CAGE Criteria	DSM Screener	MAST	UNCOPE
Number of Items	10	3	4	11	10	6
Response Format	Ordinal scale	Ordinal scale	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
Detects	Hazardous Harmful Mild Dependence	Hazardous Harmful Mild Dependence	Dependence	Abuse Dependence	Dependence	Abuse Dependence
Sensitivity	92%	50-78%	60-90%	N/A	86-98%	89-93%
Specificity	94%	75-93%	40-95%	N/A	81-95%	86-97%
Scoring	0-40 ≥8 indicates a strong likelihood of hazardous or harmful alcohol consumption	0-12 ≥5 suggests the need for further assessment	0-4 ≥2 indicates further assessment warranted	Meet criteria for abuse or dependence Y/N	0-29 ≥6 indicates a high probability of alcohol dependence	0-6 ≥2 abuse or dependence ≥4 dependence
Strengths	Detects hazardous and harmful drinking	Detects hazardous and harmful drinking	Ease of use, wide familiarity	Consistent with DSM criteria	Detects dependence	Brief, easy administration and scoring
Limitations	Minimally more complex scoring	Low/moderate sensitivity & specificity	Detects only dependence Focuses on lifetime v. current drinking	Requires provider discretion	Focuses on lifetime v. current drinking	Detects only abuse and dependence

References

American Psychiatric Association. (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (DSM IV-TR)*. Fourth Edition, Text Revision. Washington, DC: Author.

Hoffman, N. G., (1998) *UNCOPE*. Retrieved October 14th, 2005, from http://www.evinceassessment.com/UNCOPE_for_web.pdf.

Primary Care Alcohol Information Service (PCAIS). (2001). Factsheet: *Screening tools for healthcare settings*. Retrieved 14 October, 2005, from http://213.152.251.114/files/20030910_143338_Screening%20factsheet%20final%20for%20web%20.pdf.