

CAGE and CAGE-AID

Four-item substance use screeners · clinician-administered · under one minute

Patient	Date	Clinician
---------	------	-----------

CAGE · alcohol

Ask all four questions. Score 1 for each yes, 0 for each no.

	Yes	No
1 Have you ever felt you should cut down on your drinking?	☐	☐
2 Have people annoyed you by criticizing your drinking?	☐	☐
3 Have you ever felt bad or guilty about your drinking?	☐	☐
4 Have you ever had a drink first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or to get rid of a hangover (eye-opener)?	☐	☐

CAGE-AID · adapted to include drug use

When thinking about drug use, include illegal drug use and the use of prescription drugs other than as prescribed.

	Yes	No
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)?	☐	☐

TOTAL SCORE

Maximum possible score 4

INTERPRETATION

0–1

Below the conventional cutoff

2–4

Clinically significant, further assessment indicated

Threshold. A total of two or more is conventionally considered clinically significant. For primary care settings, the TIP consensus panel recommends lowering the threshold to one positive answer to identify more patients who may have a substance use problem. For the CAGE-AID, one or more positive responses is regarded as a positive screen.

CAGE-AID psychometrics (Brown and Rounds, 1995). One or more yes responses: sensitivity 0.79, specificity 0.77. Two or more yes responses: sensitivity 0.70, specificity 0.85.

Documentation. A positive screen is a starting point, not a diagnosis. Record the score, the threshold you applied, and the assessment or referral that followed. Screening recorded without a documented next step is a common denial trigger.

Ewing JA. Detecting alcoholism: the CAGE questionnaire. JAMA. 1984;252(14):1905–1907. CAGE-AID: Brown RL, Rounds LA. Conjoint screening questionnaires for alcohol [heysupa.com](#) and other drug abuse. Wis Med J. 1995;94(3):135–140.