

CAGE AND CAGE-AID SCREENING TOOL

ASKING YOUR PATIENTS A FEW SIMPLE QUESTIONS MAY HELP IDENTIFY A SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEM. THE CAGE AND CAGE-AID QUESTIONS ARE POPULAR, PROVEN, AND EASY-TO-USE TOOLS THAT ADDRESS DRUGS AND ALCOHOL.

CAGE AND CAGE-AID QUESTIONS

In the last three months, have you felt you should cut down on or stop drinking or using drugs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
In the last three months, has anyone annoyed you or gotten on your nerves by telling you to cut down on or to stop drinking or using drugs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
In the last three months, have you felt guilty or bad about how much you drink or use drugs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
In the last three months, have you been waking up wanting to have an alcoholic drink or to use drugs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Each “yes” response earns one point. One point indicates a possible problem. Two points indicate a probable problem.

IF YOU IDENTIFY OR SUSPECT A PROBLEM, CONSIDER THE 5 A's OF INTERVENTION — ASK, ADVISE, ASSESS, ASSIST, AND ARRANGE.

Ask: Screen for a potential issue.

Advise: Provide medical advice about the patient’s substance use.

Assess: Determine how willing the patient is to change their behavior.

Assist: Help the patient make a change through setting concrete goals and a follow-up plan.

Arrange: Refer the patient for further assessment and treatment, if appropriate, and set up follow-up appointments.