

Addressing Pain in South Carolina

Quick Reference #6

Substance Use Disorder Screening

Was your single-question screener for drug or alcohol use positive? Use this quick reference to find tools to further screen and assess patients, and document your findings to improve follow-up care.

FOR ADULTS

Consider using [the Tobacco, Alcohol, Prescription Medication, and Other Substance Use \(TAPS\) Tool](#). This tool:

- Can be administered in <5 minutes.
- Is validated for use with adults to generate a risk level for each substance class and offers risk-level guidance derived from expert consensus.
- Can be self-administered or clinician-administered.
- Combines screening and brief assessment of past 90-day problematic use in one tool.
- Provides risk level/implications with suggested actions to help you form the basis of your medical record documentation.

Ask the Questions

TAPS

Tobacco, Alcohol, Prescription medication, and other Substance use Tool

In the PAST YEAR, how often have you used tobacco or any other nicotine delivery product (i.e., e-cigarette, vaping or chewing tobacco)?

Never Less Than Monthly Monthly Weekly Daily or almost daily

3% complete

Review Risk Level/Implications, Suggested Actions, and Additional Resources

Opioids Risk Level: High Risk for Opioid Use Disorder

Implications
Patients with this result are at high risk for adverse outcomes related to prescription opioid use (for example: Percocet, Oxycontin, etc.) and are highly likely to meet DSM-5 criteria for an Opioid Use Disorder.

Suggested Action

Additional Resources

Suggested Action

The suggested intervention for this risk level is to confirm diagnosis through a clinical interview using the DSM-5 Opioid Use Disorder criteria as a guide.

- Express concern and recommend cessation;
- Use the [FRAMES](#) components and [motivational interviewing techniques](#) (see references for specific resources) to encourage engagement in treatment.

Additional Resources

Opioid Use Resources

- [Prescribe to Prevent](#)
- [SAMHSA: Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit](#)

OPIOID RISK PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP



BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

FOR ADOLESCENTS

Two options for a teen screening tool include the [Brief Screener for Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs \(BSTAD\)](#) and [Screening to Brief Intervention \(S2BI\)](#). These tools:

- Can be administered in <2 minutes.
- Are validated for use with adolescents ages 12–17.
- Can be self-administered or clinician-administered.
- Help assess substance use disorder risks among adolescents and offer risk-level guidance.

The difference between the two tools centers on how questions about past-year substance use are asked and answered. The BSTAD asks *how many days* a patient uses a substance, whereas the S2BI asks *how many times* a substance was used. Providers are encouraged to choose the tool that best fits their practice.

Choose a Tool & Ask the Questions

Brief Screener for Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drugs

In the PAST YEAR, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes or use other tobacco products?

0 days

Screening to Brief Intervention

In the PAST YEAR, how many times have you used tobacco?

Never	Once or twice	Monthly	Weekly or more
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Review Overall Risk Level, Score Implications, Suggested Clinical Actions, and Additional Suggestions

Document the results, and record them to assist with follow-up care.

Summary

Overall Risk Level: Higher Risk

Drugs Identified:
Tobacco, Alcohol, Marijuana, Cocaine, Heroin, Amphetamines, Methamphetamine, Hallucinogens, Inhalants, Pain Medication, Sedatives, Prescription Stimulants, Over-the-Counter Medications

[More Information About Tobacco](#)

Implications of the Score and Overall Risk Level

Adolescents reporting substance use in the past twelve months with these frequencies are at higher risk of meeting diagnostic criteria for a substance use disorder (SUD), although not all who report at this level meet criteria. This result, with co-occurring declines in academic, social, or family functioning, may indicate a higher problem severity. In a small validation study, patients reporting weekly use or greater were categorized at a higher risk for SUD and should receive additional assessment and intervention. These patients would benefit from an assessment for a diagnosis of Major Depressive Disorder, ADHD, or other psychiatric disorders, since these disorders frequently co-occur with a SUD.

Suggested Clinician Action

The suggested intervention for this group is further assessment to determine how to best manage care.

Additional Suggestions

- Assess further through a clinical interview using questions from the [CRAFT](#) as a guide. Consider making a diagnosis using the [Diagnostic and Statistical Manual \(DSM\)-5](#) SUD criteria.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse. *Screening Tools and Prevention*.

Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed-medical-health-professionals/screening-tools-prevention>