

Screening Methods

Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test (MAST)

- 25 Yes/No Questions-- relating to primarily negative consequences (whether physical, psychological, family, or legal) of alcohol use.
- Questions are weighted differently (in a range of 1 to 5).
- A total score of 0 to 53 is possible, and a score of 5 or higher is suggestive of alcoholism.
- The test takes 15 to 20 minutes to give
- One problem is that a past alcohol problem may trigger a higher score, but the person may not currently be abusing it. Closer examination by the interviewer can determine the whether the problem was in the past or present.

Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST)

- 20 Yes/No Questions
- Scores are not weighted and range from 0 to 20. A score of 6 or higher indicates the presence of drug problems.
- The test can be self-administered or administered by an interviewer.
- The DAST has the same problem as the MAST in determining the time during which the drug problem existed. As with the MAST, an interviewer will be able to determine the time period of the problem.

Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)

- 10 item screening test designed for medical settings
- A score of 8 or higher is indicative of an alcohol problem
- Testing takes only a few minutes and scoring is even quicker
- Well-supported reliability and validity

Addiction Severity Index (ASI) (ISAP)

- Short Guide to the ASI available at: www.tresearch.org/resources/manuals/SHORTguide%20asi.pdf
- Interactive interview or computerized testing
- Assesses the following six areas: medical, employment/support, drug/alcohol, legal, family/social, and psychiatric
- Used by Carol Jones Recovery and others in the area.

Interviewer Rating Scale	Patient Rating Scale
0 – 1 No real problem, treatment not indicated.	0 – None, Not at all
2 – 3 Slight problem, treatment probably not indicated.	1 – Slightly
4 – 5 Moderate problem, some treatment indicated.	2 – Moderately
6 – 7 Considerable problem, treatment necessary	3 – Considerably
8 – 9 Extreme problem, treatment absolutely necessary	4 – Extremely

CAGE

- “The test name is an acronym of letters of words in the only four items that make up the test:
 - Have you ever felt you should **CUT** down on your drinking?
 - Have people **ANNOYED** you by criticizing your drinking?
 - Have you ever felt **GUILTY** about your drinking?
 - Have you ever had a drink first thing in the morning (**EYE** opener)?”
- 2 to 3 YES answers indicate a problem.
- No time referent like MAST and DAST

MacAndrew Scale (MAC)

- An alcohol screening test that does not discuss alcohol, its use, or consequences related to use.
- “The MAC consists of 49 items from the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) that have been shown to discriminate empirically between alcoholics and other groups. The MAC is self-administered.”
- True/false questions—takes 15 min.
- Those scoring 23-27 possibly have a problem, and those scoring 28 and higher most likely do.
- May have false positives for nonalcoholic drug users, heavy cigarette smokers, and heavy users of caffeine.

Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI)

- 93 question screening inventory, 67 of which are true/false question.
- A client may take 15 minutes or less to complete the survey, and it can be interpreted in only a few minutes.
- SASSI is 94% accurate when identifying those with substance dependence disorder.
- SASSI is 93% accurate when identifying those without substance dependence disorder
- This test can tell if someone is a substance abuser even if they themselves do not believe they are.
- Scoring is different for males & females
- Ten subscales: FVA, FVOD, SYM, OAT, SAT, DEF, SAM, FAM, COR, & RAP
 - Face-Valid Scales
 - FVA (Face-Valid Alcohol)
 - FVOD (Face-Valid Other Drugs)
- The face-valid scales are straightforward measure of acknowledged alcohol and drug use, motivation and consequences of usage, and loss of control.

- A FVA of 18 or more and/or a FVOD of 16 or more indicate substance dependence disorder.

SYM (Symptoms of Substance Misuse)

- A true/false measure of the extent to which the client acknowledges specific problems associated with substance misuse.
- Clients with elevated SYM scores have acknowledged a pattern and history of serious substance misuse, including negative consequences and being a part of a family system that is affected by addictions.
- A score of 7 or more indicates substance dependence disorder.

OAT (Obvious Attributes)

- The OAT scale measures the client's tendency to acknowledge characteristics commonly associated with substance abuse.
- Clients with elevated OAT scores have acknowledged characteristics associated with substance abuse. They are showing a response pattern similar to people in treatment for substance dependence disorders.
- A score of 10 or more indicates substance dependence disorder.

SAT (Subtle Attributes)

- The SAT scores reflect the client's similarity in basic personal style to persons involved in addictive patterns.
- The SAT levels are still elevated even if the client tries to “fake good”.
- Those who score high on the SAT scale may often detach from their feelings and have relatively little insight into the basis and causes of their problems. Clients with high SAT, esp. those with SAT higher than OAT may deny the need for intensive treatment.
- A SAT score of 6 or more indicates substance dependence disorder.

DEF (Defensiveness)

SAM (Supplemental Addiction Measure)

- Identifies defensiveness. Defensiveness may be related to substance misuse in some clients, but not in others. The SAM scale distinguishes people defensive about substance misuse from other defensive people.
- DEF and SAM are important because some clients' defensiveness may prevent their identification by other SASSI scales and by other screening measures.
- An OAT of 5 or more, a DEF of 8 or more, AND a **SAM** of 8 or more indicates substance dependence disorder.

FAM (Family vs. Control Subjects)

- FAM is a provisional scale intended to identify individuals with characteristics common among family members of substance dependent persons.
- Those with a high FAM are not typically substance dependence, but have family members who are.
- FAM is not used to determine substance dependence disorder.

COR (Correctional)

- The COR scale assesses the client's relative level of risk for legal problems
- The COR items were selected because they identified adults with relatively extensive histories of problems with the legal/judicial system.
- While clients with high COR scores often have alcohol and drug problems which must be addressed, high COR scores suggest recovery from substance dependence may not be all they need.
- COR is not used to determine substance dependence disorder.

RAP (Random Answering Pattern)

- The RAP scale identifies test profiles in which the client's responses may not be meaningful.
- The RAP items are questions which almost everyone answers the same way. Clinical experience has confirmed their utility. Elevated RAP scores are associated with decreased accuracy in the decision rules and lessen the utility of clinical hypotheses derived from scale scores.
- A RAP score of two or more may alter the meaning of a SASSI profile.
- RAP could also be elevated by: illiteracy, language problems, cultural differences, confusion when marking true/false, losing one's place when marking the form, deliberate noncompliance, passive-aggressive behavior, or psychotic processes or other thought disorders.