Substance Use Disorder Screener

What is it?

The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test Consumption screening tool (AUDIT-C) is a 3 question screen that can help identify patients with alcohol misuse. The AUDIT-C is a modified version of the 10 question AUDIT screening instrument. The instrument has clinical utility in reliably identifying patients who are hazardous drinkers or who have alcohol use disorders.

Link(s) to Screener(s)

AUDIT-C—iusbirt.org/tools/audit-c-screening-tool-overview/

How to use it / Who should administer

It is a self-report measure.

How to interpret / Next Steps

The AUDIT-C is scored on a scale of 0-12 points (scores of 0 reflect no alcohol use in the past year). In men, a score of 4 points or more is considered positive for alcohol misuse; in women, a score of 3 points or more is considered positive. Generally, the higher the AUDIT-C score, the more likely it is that the patient's drinking is affecting his/her health and safety.

What to do with results? Decision tree / logic model for next steps

The AUDIT-C is a short screener and a positive screen requires further discussion with the patient to see if they have an alcohol use disorder. If you have a behavioral health specialist on staff, ask them to assess the patient further. If you're without a BH specialist, you and the patient can look together at the DSM 5 criteria for Alcohol Use Disorder and see if they meet criteria. If they do, this is a useful clinical pathway for treatment decision making.

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