

PREVENTIVE CARE RECOMMENDATIONS

ADULT- AGES 19 AND ABOVE

CAGE QUESTIONNAIRE

Instructions to Physicians

These questions, asked as part of the routine history taking, can elicit important information that screens for alcoholism.

While the questions are being answered, observe the patient's attitude as a subjective indicator of potential alcoholism, and score the instruments accordingly: rationalization, denial, projection of blame, etc. The manner in which the questions are answered is important.

CAGE Questionnaire for Alcoholism¹

	Yes	No
1. Have you ever tried to C ut down on your drinking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are you A nnoyed when people ask you about your drinking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Do you ever feel G uilty about your drinking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Do you ever take morning E ye-opener?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Scoring

- 1 "Yes" response: Possible alcoholism
- 2 "Yes" responses: High alcoholism suspicion index
- 3 "Yes" responses: High alcoholism suspicion index
- 4 "Yes" responses: Alcoholism diagnosis likely

With all patients scoring 1 to 4 "Yes" responses, administer [SMAST](#)

References:

Ewing JA Detecting Alcoholism, the CAGE questionnaire, JAMA 1984.252 1905-1997