

Addressing Pain in South Carolina

Quick Reference #2

Alcohol and other substance use can exacerbate medical conditions and are often associated with injuries and accidents. But you can quickly identify at-risk patients by asking just two questions annually or at their first visit.

Alcohol

Single-question screen for alcohol

"How many times in the past year have you had 5 or more drinks in a day (for men) or 4 or more drinks in a day (for women)?"

Next Steps

Patient Response	Provider Action	Resources
0 times	Provide positive reinforcement for healthy choices.	
1 or more times	Educate to reduce harm. Help the patient understand the safe limits of alcohol. Assess for alcohol use disorder.	Share: NIAAA's Rethinking Drinking Assess: Helping Patients Who Drink Too Much

Drugs

Single-question screen for drugs

"How many times in the past year have you used an illegal drug or used a prescription medication for non-medical reasons (for example, because of the experience or feeling it caused)?"

Next Steps

Patient Response	Provider Action	Resources
0 times	Provide positive reinforcement for healthy choices.	
1 or more times	Educate to reduce harm. Assess for substance use disorder.	Share: NIDA's Easy-to-Read Drug Facts Assess: Chart of Evidence-Based Screening Tools

OPIOID RISK PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP



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