

((For the health professional))

Scoring and interpreting the AUDIT:

Each answer receives a point ranging from 0 to 4. Points are added for a total score that correlates with a zone of use that can be circled on the bottom left corner of the page.

Score*	Suggested zone	Indicated action
0-3: Women 0-4: Men	I – Low risk (low risk of health problems related to alcohol use)	Brief education
4-12: Women 5-14: Men	II - Risky (increased risk of health problems related to alcohol use)	Brief intervention
13-19: Women 15-19: Men	III - Harmful (increased risk of health problems related to alcohol use and a possible mild or moderate alcohol use disorder)	Brief intervention or referral to specialized treatment
20+: Men 20+: Women	IV - Severe (increased risk of health problems related to alcohol use and a possible moderate or severe alcohol use disorder)	Referral to specialized treatment

Brief education: An opportunity to educate patients about low-risk consumption levels and the risks of excessive alcohol use.

Brief intervention: Patient-centered discussion that employs Motivational Interviewing concepts to raise an individual’s awareness of his/her substance use and enhancing his/her motivation towards behavioral change. Brief interventions are typically performed in 3-15 minutes, and should occur in the same session as the initial screening. Repeated sessions are more effective than a one-time intervention.

The recommended behavior change is to cut back to low-risk drinking levels unless there are other medical reasons to abstain (liver damage, pregnancy, medication contraindications, etc.).

Patients with numerous or serious negative consequences from their drinking, or patients with likely dependence who cannot or will not obtain conventional specialized treatment, should receive more numerous and intensive interventions with follow up. The recommended behavior change in this case is to either cut back to low-risk drinking levels or abstain from use.

Referral to specialized treatment: A proactive process that facilitates access to specialized care for individuals who have been assessed to have substance use dependence. These patients are referred to alcohol and drug treatment experts for more definitive, in-depth assessment and, if warranted, treatment. The recommended behavior change is to abstain from use and accept the referral. Referrals to treatment are delivered to the patient using the brief intervention model.

More resources: www.sbirtoregon.org

* Johnson J, Lee A, Vinson D, Seale P. “Use of AUDIT-Based Measures to Identify Unhealthy Alcohol Use and Alcohol Dependence in Primary Care: A Validation Study.” *Alcohol Clin Exp Res*, Vol 37, No S1, 2013: pp E253–E259

