

SCORING TOOLS

Alcohol Use Identification Test (AUDIT-C)

The **AUDIT-C** is scored on a scale of 0-12 (scores of 0 reflect no alcohol use). In men, a score of 4 or more is considered positive; in women, a score of 3 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

Advice

If a clinician suspects that the patient is minimizing his or her alcohol use, or if a patient's score is near the cutoff, one may consider utilizing a more lengthy screening test to better determine the nature and extent of the problem.

Other validated tests for further assessment include:

- Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test (MAST)
- Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)

Management

- When screening results are positive, the patient should be referred for further evaluation and treatment of an alcohol use problem.
- This will vary based on available resources but is ideally to an addiction psychiatrist, psychologist, or addiction treatment program.

Critical Actions

In any hospital setting where access to alcohol may be limited, always monitor for signs/symptoms of alcohol withdrawal, even in patients who have not screened positive for an alcohol problem.

Bush K, Kivlahan DR, McDonnell MB, Fihn SD, Bradley KA. [The AUDIT alcohol consumption questions \(AUDIT-C\): an effective brief screening test for problem drinking. Ambulatory Care Quality Improvement Project \(ACQUIP\). Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test.](#) Archives of Internal Medicine 1998 September 14, 158 (16): 1789-95