

NM ASSIST

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Description: NM ASSIST Questionnaire

NIDA-Modified ASSIST (NIDA-Modified **A**lcohol, **S**moking and **S**ubstance Involvement **S**creening **T**est) is an initial tool to assess whether a patient may be currently abusing drugs or alcohol. Includes prescreening questions, plus 7 items, and takes about 15 minutes to administer and score. The target audience for this screening instrument is adults, and is administered through a patient interview.

Evidence

- WHO ASSIST has been shown to have excellent accuracy and high capacity to discriminate between substance use, abuse and dependence (Newcombe, et al, 2005).
- Validated for use as an international screening test (WHOAW Group, 2002)

Indications

- Indicated for drug use screening in general medical settings
- Designed to identify unhealthy behaviors before they progress into life threatening conditions
- Assesses a patient's lifetime use of substances including alcohol, tobacco, and prescription and illegal drugs, to determine if an intervention is necessary

Advantages

- An Online Screening Tool is found online at the NIDA website. The NM ASSIST has been copied into a Screening Tool Quick Reference Guide, as well as a Patient Postcard on the NIDA website.
- Specifically designed to improve the patient-doctor relationship and identify hazardous behaviors early
- Shown to meet patient expectations of a health interview (WHOAW Group, 2002)
- Contains specific questions about the use of prescription medications

Limitations

- Does not address unique assessment needs of adolescents or pregnant women (NIDA, 2009)

SCREENING INSTRUMENT HERE UPON APPROVAL

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Scoring Level of risk associated with different Substance Involvement Score ranges for Illicit or nonmedical prescription drug use:

0-3 Lower Risk 4 to 6 Moderate Risk 7+ High Risk

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