



Michigan Quality Improvement Consortium Clinical Practice Guideline Update Alert

Guideline: [Screening, Diagnosis and Referral for Substance Use Disorders](#)

Released: August 2015

Updated recommendations:

Eligible Population

Adolescents and adults, including older adults

Screening for Substance Use Disorder and Risky Substance Use:

Screen by history for substance use at every health maintenance exam or initial pregnancy visit (repeat as indicated), using a valid [screening tool](#)¹ (improves accuracy of detecting substance abuse or dependence).

Adolescent screening tool: [CRAFFT](#)

Pregnant women screening tool: [TWEAK](#)

Maintain high index of concern for substance use in persons with:

- Chronic pain or illness, history of trauma

For at risk patients, obtain a [Michigan Automated Prescription System](#) (MAPS) report and /or urine drug screen

Diagnosing Substance Use Disorder: (indicates a maladaptive pattern of substance use resulting in clinically significant impairment or distress):

Diagnostic criteria include at least two of the following, occurring within a 12-month period:

(Level of severity: Mild 2-3 symptoms; Moderate 4-5 symptoms; Severe 6 or more symptoms)

- Use in larger amounts or over a longer period than intended
- Persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control use
- Great deal of time spent obtaining, using or recovering from use
- Craving or a strong desire or urge to use
- Recurrent use resulting in a failure to fulfill major work, school, or home obligations
- Continued use despite related social or interpersonal problems
- Important social, occupational or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of use
- Recurrent use in situations in which it is physically hazardous
- Use in continued despite related physical or psychological problems
- Tolerance
- Withdrawal

Patients with Substance Use Disorder or Risky Behaviors

Patient Education and Brief Intervention by PCP or Trained Staff (e.g. RN, MSW):

- Express concern, advise the patient to cut back on usage or quit, using motivational interviewing techniques
- Provide feedback regarding risky use.
- Explore pros and cons and assess patient's readiness to change
- Create an action plan identifying patient strengths and supports
- Involve family and friends
- If diagnosed with substance use disorder, initiate treatment within 14 days

Referral: (for high risk behavior, or symptoms)

- Refer to a substance abuse health specialist, an addiction physician specialist, or a physician experienced in pharmacologic management of addiction^{2,3}

¹Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions [Drug and Alcohol Use Screening Tools](#)

²Michigan Department of Health and Human Services [Substance Use, Problem Gaming, or Mental Health contact information](#)

³SAMHSA [Michigan Buprenorphine Physician Locator](#)