

Screening and Diagnosis of Opioid Use Disorder

An expert panel of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) Treatment Improvement Protocols (TIP) recommends universal screening for opioid use disorder¹; similarly, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) released a draft recommendation to routinely screen adults 18 and older for illicit drug use including prescription opioid misuse.²

A single question screener can be used to efficiently screen for opioid misuse¹:

How many times in the past year have you used an illegal drug or a prescription medication for nonmedical reasons?

Any response other than zero is considered a positive screen that should be followed by identification of the substance(s) used. A positive single question screen for opioid misuse should be followed by an assessment using a validated screening instrument for opioid use disorder (OUD).¹

Opioid Use Disorder Screening Tools

Some options for validated opioid use disorder screening and assessment tools include are shown in the following table:

Tool	Patient Age		Administration	
	Adults	Adolescents	Self	Clinician
Screening to Brief Intervention (S2BI) ³		X	X	X
Brief Screener for Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (BSTAD) ⁴		X	X	X
Tobacco, Alcohol, Prescription Medication and Other Substance Use (TAPS) ⁵	X		X	X
NIDA Drug Use Screening Tool (NM ASSIST) ⁶	X	APA Adapted NM Assist Tool	APA Adapted NM Assist Tool	X
Opioid Risk Tool (ORT) ⁷	X		X	
Rapid Opioid Dependence Screen (RODS) ⁸	X			X
Current Opioid Misuse Measure (COMM) ⁹	X		X	
CAGE-AID ¹⁰	X			X
CRAFFT ¹¹		X	X	X
Drug Abuse Screening Test-10 ¹²	X		X	X
Drug Abuse Screening Test-Adolescent ¹³		X	X	X
Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS) ¹⁴	X	X		X
Addiction Severity Index (ASI) ¹⁵	X		X	

Screening 2 Brief Intervention (S2BI):³ A seven question online substance use screening tool for adolescents to be used by the patient or the clinician that provides a level of risk assessment and suggestions for additional resources. The screening tool can be accessed <https://www.drugabuse.gov/ast/s2bi/#/>

Brief Screener for Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs (BSTAD):⁴ This tool, also for adolescents, is identical to the S2BI tool described above except for the formatting of the response options. The S2BI asks about days per week of substance use whereas the BSTAD asks the number of days of use in the past year. The screening tool can be accessed at <https://www.drugabuse.gov/ast/bstad/#/>

Tobacco, Alcohol, Prescription Medication, and Other Substance Use (TAPS):⁵ A brief online substance use screening tool for adults that screens for tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs, and the non-medical use of prescription drugs concluding with a risk level assessment. The screening tool can be accessed at <https://www.drugabuse.gov/taps/#/>

NIDA Drug Use Screening Tool (NM-Assist):⁶ A brief, web-based tool for clinicians that screens for substance use, provides a substance involvement score (low, moderate, high) for each substance and follow up recommendations based on the 5 As (Ask, Advise, Assess, Assist, Arrange). The screening tool can be accessed at <https://www.drugabuse.gov/nmassist/>.

Opioid Risk Tool (ORT):⁷ A brief screening tool designed for adults to assess the risk of opioid abuse before prescribing opioids for chronic pain. The screening tool can be accessed at <https://d14rmgtrwzf5a.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/opioidrisktool.pdf>

Rapid Opioid Dependence Screen (RODS):⁸ An eight-item measure of opioid dependence for adults based on the DSM (4th edition) criteria for opioid dependence.

Current Opioid Misuse Measure (COMM):⁹ The COMM is a 17 item self-administered questionnaire designed to detect signs of opioid misuse within the past 30 days in chronic pain patients. It can be found at

<http://mytopcare.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/COMM.pdf>

CAGE-AID:¹⁰ A four question screening tool for adults that assesses for alcohol and drug misuse. The screening tool can be accessed at <https://www.integration.samhsa.gov/images/res/CAGEAID.pdf>

CRAFFT:¹¹ Recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics to identify substance use, substance-related riding/driving risk and substance use disorder among adolescents 12-21 years of age. The CRAFFT can be accessed at <https://craftt.org/get-the-craftt/>

Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST):¹² The DAST 10 is a 10- item brief screening tool to assess substance use, excluding alcohol and tobacco. There is also a 20 and a 28-item version available. The DAST 10 and DAST 20 are available at <https://sbirt.webs.com/DAST%20multiple%20versions.pdf>
The 28 item DAST is available at: https://integrationacademy.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/DAST_0.pdf

Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST)-Adolescent:¹³ The DAST A is a 20-item screening tool to assess substance use among adolescents, excluding alcohol and tobacco. The screening tool can be accessed at <https://sbirt.webs.com/DAST%20multiple%20versions.pdf>

Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS):¹⁴ An 11-item scale designed to be used by clinicians to evaluate symptoms of opiate withdrawal. The assessment includes both subjective and objective data. The assessment tool at <https://www.drugabuse.gov/sites/default/files/files/ClinicalOpiateWithdrawalScale.pdf>

Addiction Severity Index (ASI):¹⁵ A semi-structured interview for adults administered by a clinician addressing seven potential problem areas among persons with substance use disorders including medical status, employment and support, drug use, alcohol use, legal status, family/social status and psychiatric status.

Additional Screening

The “4Rs” and “4Cs”(Use and Consequences) may also be a quick and useful tool in screening for substance use disorders in the clinical setting.

The 4R's

- Role failure
- Relationship trouble
- Risk of bodily harm
- Repeated attempts to cut back

The 4C's

- Control (loss of it)
- Craving
- Compulsion to use
- Consequences of use

Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES)

Another essential screening resource for identifying prescription drug misuse in California is the prescription drug monitoring program CURES, Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System.¹⁶ Mandatory CURES review when prescribing controlled substances became effective in 2018. The CURES database can be accessed any time prescription substance use is suspected; <https://oag.ca.gov/cures>.



Persons with an opioid use disorder are at increased risk for infectious disease including hepatitis, HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STI), respiratory infections and skin abscesses.¹ Additional recommend screening for person with an OUD include hepatitis and HIV serology, testing for sexually transmitted infection and tuberculosis, as well as a complete blood count, liver function tests and a pregnancy test for women of childbearing potential.¹

Opioid Use Disorder Diagnosis

The **DSM 5 Criteria** are used to establish the diagnosis for opioid use disorder; to meet the criteria for an OUD at least two of the following should be observed within the last 12 months¹⁷:

- Opioids are often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than was intended.
- There is a persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control opioid use.
- A great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain the opioid, use the opioid, or recover from its effects.
- Craving, or a strong desire or urge to use opioids.
- Recurrent opioid use resulting in a failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home.
- Continued opioid use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of opioids.
- Important social, occupational, or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of opioid use.
- Recurrent opioid use in situations in which it is physically hazardous.
- Continued opioid use despite knowledge of having a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that is likely to have been caused or exacerbated by the substance.
- Exhibits tolerance.
- Exhibits withdrawal.

OUD diagnosis is *ranked by severity*:

Mild OUD: 2-3 symptoms; **Moderate OUD:** 4-5 symptoms; **Severe OUD:** 6 or more symptoms

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