### What’s “low-risk” drinking?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low-risk drinking limits</th>
<th>MEN</th>
<th>WOMEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>On any single DAY</strong></td>
<td>No more than 4 <strong>drinks on any day</strong></td>
<td>No more than 3 <strong>drinks on any day</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**AND **</td>
<td>**AND **</td>
<td>**AND **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Per WEEK</strong></td>
<td>No more than 14 <strong>drinks per week</strong></td>
<td>No more than 7 <strong>drinks per week</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To stay low risk, keep within BOTH the single-day AND weekly limits.

---

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. (2013). Rethinking Drinking: Alcohol and your health (NIH Publication No. 10-3770)  
www.rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov

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Copyright 2013, University of Pittsburgh. All Rights Reserved. This project was supported in part by funds from the Division of Nursing (DN), Bureaus of Health Professions (BHPr), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) under grant number D11HP14629. The information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by the Division of Nursing, BHPr, HRSA, DHHS or the U.S. Government.
What’s “low-risk” drinking?

“Low risk” is not “no risk.” Even within these limits, drinkers can have problems if they drink too quickly, have health problems, or are older (both men and women over 65 are generally advised to have no more than 3 drinks on any day and 7 per week). Based on your health and how alcohol affects you, you may need to drink less or not at all. It’s safest to avoid alcohol altogether if you are

- taking medications that interact with alcohol
- managing a medical condition that can be made worse by drinking
- underage
- planning to drive a vehicle or operate machinery
- pregnant or trying to become pregnant


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- managing a medical condition that can be made worse by drinking
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- planning to drive a vehicle or operate machinery
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### What's a Standard Drink?

Although the drinks below are different sizes, each contains approximately the same amount of alcohol and counts as a single standard drink.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12 fl oz of regular beer</th>
<th>8-9 fl oz of malt liquor</th>
<th>5 fl oz of table wine</th>
<th>3-4 oz of fortified wine (sherry, port etc.)</th>
<th>2-3 oz of cordial, liqueur, or aperitif</th>
<th>1.5 oz of brandy (1 jigger or shot)</th>
<th>1.5 fl oz shot of 80-proof spirits (&quot;hard liquor&quot;)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>about 5% alcohol</td>
<td>about 5% alcohol</td>
<td>about 7% alcohol</td>
<td>about 12% alcohol</td>
<td>about 17% alcohol</td>
<td>about 24% alcohol</td>
<td>about 40% alcohol</td>
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**Effects of High-Risk Drinking**

High-risk drinking may lead to social, legal, medical, domestic, job and financial problems. It may also cut your lifespan and lead to accidents and death from drunken driving.

**Adapted from:** Babor, T.F., Higgins-Biddle, J.C., Saunders, J.B., Monteiro, M.G. (2001). The alcohol use disorders identification test guidelines for use in primary care. (2nd ed.). World Health Organization, Department of Mental Health and Substance Dependence.
Alcohol Pre-Screen:

How many times in the past year have you had X or more drinks in a day?

(X equals 5 for men and 4 for women). Reporting 1 or more occurrences of this is considered a positive result and should trigger more in-depth screening and possibly a brief intervention.


Drug Pre-Screen:

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

A score of 1 or more is considered a positive result and should trigger more in-depth screening and possibly a brief intervention.


Tobacco Pre-Screen:

Do you currently smoke or use any form of tobacco?

Yes = a positive screen and should trigger more in-depth screening and possibly a brief intervention.


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### 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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>1. How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?</th>
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**PATIENT:** Because alcohol use can affect your health and can interfere with certain medications and treatments, it is important that we ask some questions about your use of alcohol. Your answers will remain confidential, so please be honest.

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<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. How often during the last year have you needed a first drink in the morning to get yourself going after a heavy drinking session?</td>
<td>Never</td>
<td>Less than monthly</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. How often during the last year have you had a feeling of guilt or remorse after drinking?</td>
<td>Never</td>
<td>Less than monthly</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. How often during the last year have you been unable to remember what happened the night before because of your drinking?</td>
<td>Never</td>
<td>Less than monthly</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Have you or someone else been injured because of your drinking?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, but not in the last year</td>
<td>Yes, during the last year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Has a relative, friend, doctor, or other healthcare worker been concerned about your drinking or suggested you cut down?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, but not in the last year</td>
<td>Yes, during the last year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**TOTAL**


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<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Suggested Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-7</td>
<td>Alcohol Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-15</td>
<td>Simple Advice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-19</td>
<td>Simple Advice plus Brief Counseling and Continued Monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-40</td>
<td>Referral to Specialist for Diagnostic Evaluation and Treatment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Drug Abuse Screening Test - DAST-10

#### These Questions Refer to the Past 12 Months

1. Have you used drugs other than those required for medical reasons?  
   - Yes  
   - No
2. Do you abuse more than one drug at a time?  
   - Yes  
   - No
3. Are you unable to stop using drugs when you want to?  
   - Yes  
   - No
4. Have you ever had blackouts or flashbacks as a result of drug use?  
   - Yes  
   - No
5. Do you ever feel bad or guilty about your drug use?  
   - Yes  
   - No
6. Does your spouse (or parents) ever complain about your involvement with drugs?  
   - Yes  
   - No
7. Have you neglected your family because of your use of drugs?  
   - Yes  
   - No
8. Have you engaged in illegal activities in order to obtain drugs?  
   - Yes  
   - No
9. Have you ever experienced withdrawal symptoms (felt sick) when you stopped taking drugs?  
   - Yes  
   - No
10. Have you had medical problems as a result of your drug use (e.g., memory loss, hepatitis, convulsions, bleeding)?  
    - Yes  
    - No

**TOTAL:**  

---

## DAST SCORING

### DAST-10 Interpretation (Each “Yes” response = 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>DEGREE OF PROBLEMS RELATED TO DRUG ABUSE</th>
<th>SUGGESTED ACTION</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No Problems Reported</td>
<td>Encouragement &amp; education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Low Level</td>
<td>Risky Behavior- Feedback &amp; Advice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>Moderate Level</td>
<td>Harmful Behavior- Feedback &amp; Counseling; Possible referral for specialized assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>Substantial Level</td>
<td>Intensive Assessment and referral</td>
</tr>
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CAGE-Adapted to Include Drugs (CAGE-AID)

1. Have you ever felt you should **CUT** down on your drinking or drug use?
   - Drinking: **YES** ____ **NO** ____
   - Drug Use: **YES** ____ **NO** ____

2. Have people **ANNOYED** you by criticizing your drinking or drug use?
   - Drinking: **YES** ____ **NO** ____
   - Drug Use: **YES** ____ **NO** ____

3. Have you ever felt bad or **GUILTY** about your drinking or drug use?
   - Drinking: **YES** ____ **NO** ____
   - Drug Use: **YES** ____ **NO** ____

4. Have you ever had an **EYE OPENER** (a drink or used drugs first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or to get rid of a hangover)?
   - Drinking: **YES** ____ **NO** ____
   - Drug Use: **YES** ____ **NO** ____

**Scoring:** Regard one or more “**yes**” responses to the **CAGE-AID** as a positive screen.


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TACE was designed for use in obstetric settings to identify women who are at-risk drinkers.

**Tolerance:** “How many drinks does it take to make you feel high?”

(More than 2 drinks = 2 points)

**Annoyed:** “Have people annoyed you by criticizing your drinking?”

(Positive response = 1 point)

**Cut down:** “Have you ever felt that you ought to cut down on your drinking?”

(Positive response = 1 point)

**Eye opener:** “Have you ever had a drink first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or get rid of a hangover?”

(Positive response = 1 point)

Any score of 2 total points or higher on the TACE survey indicates a positive screen for at-risk drinking.

Fagerstrom Test for Nicotine Dependence *

Is smoking “just a habit” or are you addicted? Take this test and find out your level of dependence on nicotine.

1. How soon after you wake up do you smoke your first cigarette?
   - After 60 minutes (0)
   - 31-60 minutes (1)
   - 6-30 minutes (2)
   - Within 5 minutes (3)

2. Do you find it difficult to refrain from smoking in places where it is forbidden?
   - No (0)
   - Yes (1)

3. Which cigarette would you hate most to give up?
   - The first in the morning (1)
   - Any other (0)

4. How many cigarettes per day do you smoke?
   - 10 or less (0)
   - 11-20 (1)
   - 21-30 (2)
   - 31 or more (3)

5. Do you smoke more frequently during the first hours after awakening than during the rest of the day?
   - No (0)
   - Yes (1)

6. Do you smoke even if you are so ill that you are in bed most of the day?
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6. Do you smoke even if you are so ill that you are in bed most of the day?
   - No (0)
   - Yes (1)
Your score was: _______. Your level of dependence on nicotine is:

0-2: very low dependence
3-4: low dependence
6-7: high dependence
8-10: very high dependence

5: Medium dependence

Scores under 5: Your level of nicotine dependence is still low. You should act now before your level of dependence increases.

Score of 5: Your level of nicotine dependence is moderate. If you don’t quit soon, your level of dependence on nicotine will increase until you may be seriously addicted. Act now to end your dependence on nicotine.

Score over 7: Your level of dependence is high. You aren’t in control of your smoking – it is in control of you! When you make the decision to quit, you may want to talk with your doctor about nicotine replacement therapy or other medications to help you break your addiction.


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Stages of Change
1. Relevant to changing a wide range of health-related behaviors
2. Predictable sequence of stages (attitudes, intentions, behaviors)
3. Non-linear pattern of progress typical

BASICALLY, THE MODEL DESCRIBES 5 STAGES OF CHANGE:
1. Precontemplation
2. Contemplation
3. Preparation
4. Action
5. Maintenance


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Job of Brief Interventions:

- **Raise the Subject:** “If it’s okay with you, let’s take a minute to talk about the screening questions you answered today.”

- **Provide Feedback:** “I can tell you that drinking (drug use) at this level can be harmful to your health and possibly responsible for the health problem you came in for today (and/or may interact in a harmful way with your medication).”

- **Enhance Motivation:** “On a scale of 0-10, how ready are you to cut back your use?”
  - If >0: “Why that number and not a _ (lower number)
  - If 0: “Have you ever done anything while drinking (using drugs) that you later regretted?

- **Negotiate Plan:** “What steps can you take to cut back your use?”
  “How would your drinking (drug use) have to impact your life in order for you to start thinking about quitting or cutting back?”

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Components of Brief Interventions: The FRAMES Model

- Feedback
- Responsibility
- Advice
- Menu of options
- Empathy
- Self efficacy

FLO: The 3 Tasks of a Brief Intervention

Feedback
Listen and Understand
Options Explored

Where to Turn Resources


Alcoholics Anonymous / 12 -Step self help group for alcoholics: 412-471-7420; http://www.pghaa.org


Al-Anon/Alateen / 12- Step support groups for families of alcoholics: 1-888-425-2666; http://www.pa-al-anon.org

NAR Anon / 12-Step support groups for families of drug addicts: 412-782-2210

Celebrate Recovery, Christian faith-based support groups for alcoholics and drug addicts, www.celebraterecovery.com/cr-groups

Reference: Online resources (2009) compiled from The ATN-SBIRT Program, a partnership with the University of Pittsburgh, School of Nursing and IRETA supported by Grant D11HP14629 from the Division of Nursing and the Office of Health Information Technology, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

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