

The RAPS4 Questions

1. Have you had a feeling of guilt or remorse after drinking?
2. Has a friend or a family member ever told you about things you said or did while you were drinking that you could not remember?
3. Have you failed to do what was normally expected of you because of drinking?
4. Do you sometimes take a drink when you first get up in the morning?

A "yes" answer to at least one of the four questions suggests that your drinking is harmful to your health and well-being and may adversely affect your work and those around you.

If you answered "no" to all four questions, your drinking pattern is considered safe for most people and your results do not suggest that alcohol is harming your health.

Source:

Alcohol Concern. Primary Care Alcohol Information Service - Screening tools for healthcare settings (PDF). Retrieved 2007.

While Norm is the "assessment maven," I would like to put my two cents in. I have the following problems with the RAPS4:

- 1) Item #1: Some individuals who have a diagnosable alcohol problem will not feel guilt or remorse about the drinking and in fact may be incapable of feeling guilt or remorse about anything;
- 2) Item #2: Some recent research (sorry - don't remember the source) indicated that even people without an alcohol use disorder may experience blackouts;
- 3) Item #4: Drinking in the morning is a late stage symptom of alcohol dependence which means it will miss early and middle stage alcoholics.

The fact that it has proven to be more effective than the CAGE for identifying alcohol dependence is no great endorsement considering the limitations of the CAGE.

A far better instrument which also screens for drugs in addition to alcohol is the UNCOPE.

Jerry Shulman

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See AOL's top rated recipes and easy ways to stay in shape for winter.

From: Evinceassessment@aol.com
Subject: Re: [dualdx] The RAPS4 Alcohol Screening Test
To: dualdx@treatment.org
Date: Tue, 11 Dec 2007 12:44:31 -0400
Message-ID: <web-912733@jbsinternational.com>

In a message dated 12/11/2007 9:16:58 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, daphil15@hotmail.com writes:
Norm H,
How about a read on this please?

This 4 item screen does not seem all that different from the CAGE, which the authors claim is not as accurate as the RAPS4. The R and S items seem similar to the G and E items of the CAGE. Ironically, I think the best item on the CAGE is the C item of wanting to cut down.

Neither of these screens seems as helpful as the UNCOPE, whose items all tend to occur relatively early in the development of dependence (unlike the G and E items on these screens which generally is later in the progression). Also, the UNCOPE avoids the problem of expecting either guilt or remorse in correctional and similar populations.

The UNCOPE items are as follows:

U – Have you spent more time drinking or using than you intended to? (Use)

N – Have you ever neglected some of your usual responsibilities because of using alcohol or drugs?

C – Have you felt you wanted or needed to cut down on your drinking or drug use in the last year?

O – Has anyone objected to your drinking or drug use?

P – Have you found yourself thinking a lot about drinking or using? (Preoccupation)

E – Have you ever used alcohol or drugs to relieve emotional discomfort, such as sadness, anger, or boredom?

The UNCOPE has been validated on both adult and adolescent populations, and is suitable for both juvenile justice and arrestee screening as well as for use with populations such as medical patients. The six-item screen also allows one to vary the cut score so as to adjust the sensitivity and specificity to suit differential concerns regarding the two types of errors.

More information on the UNCOPE can be found in the research section of www.evinceassessment.com.

Norm

Norman G. Hoffmann, Ph.D.

See AOL's top rated recipes and easy ways to stay in shape
for winter.

To: dualdx@treatment.org
Date: Tue, 11 Dec 2007 11:45:15 -0500
Message-ID: <redirect-912738@jbsinternational.com>
Subject: Volkow on Prometa
From: "Forbes, Deirdre" <Deirdre.Forbes@MOUNTSINAI.ORG>

As per yesterday's discussion I thought this would be of interest.

<http://www.csam-asam.org/Prometa_Con.vp.html>

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To: dualdx@treatment.org
Date: Tue, 11 Dec 2007 23:59:04 -0500
Message-ID: <redirect-913548@jbsinternational.com>
From: "MICHAEL W. BENNETT" <rrhsmike@msn.com>
Subject: RE: [dualdx] Re: The RAPS4 Alcohol Screening Test

I have used several screening instruments & have years of experience using the UNCOPE with a lot of data correlated/coupled with the SASSI. I have to agree with Gerri that I haven't found anything that comes close when it comes to a "triage (quick) SCREENING tool". Michael W. Bennett, MBA CAP CAPP ICADC CCCJS-MACe CCFC, Director of Operations, Addiction Recovery Systems, 150 Onix Drive, Kennett Square, PA 19348, 904-307-6548 Mobile, 1-888-783-3211 Fax

-----Original Message-----

From: dualdx@treatment.org [<mailto:dualdx@treatment.org>] On Behalf Of GDShulman@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2007 8:37 AM
To: dualdx@treatment.org
Subject: [dualdx] Re: The RAPS4 Alcohol Screening Test

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