

IMPLEMENTING DRUG AND ALCOHOL SCREENING IN PRIMARY CARE

Alcohol and drug use are among the top ten causes of preventable death in the United States. Screening is the first step in identifying and addressing substance use as part of routine medical care.



STRATEGY

Clinics seeking to implement screening for substance use need evidence-based guidance on approaches best suited to their resources, workflows, and patient populations.

THIS PLANNING RESOURCE WILL HELP YOU:

- 1 SELECT** screening tools and decide on your screening approach, including options for patient self-administered screening;
- 2 INTEGRATE** screening into the electronic health record (EHR) and clinical workflows;
- 3 PREPARE** your practice for screening; and
- 4 MONITOR** the success of your screening program through simple data reports.



TO ACCESS, VISIT:

<https://alcoholdrugscreening.simmersion.com/>



SCREENING IN A PRIMARY CARE SETTING: ¹



Guidelines from the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommend alcohol and drug screening in primary care.



Clinics seeking to implement screening for substance use need information and guidance to choose the approach that is best suited to their resources, workflows, and patient populations.



The screening implementation choices made in primary care practices directly impact its adoption, accuracy and clinical utility.



THE STUDY:

The NIDA Clinical Trials Network conducted a multi-phase study to inform the implementation and feasibility of electronic health record (EHR)-integrated substance use screening in primary care.

The researchers gathered information from stakeholders including primary care providers, medical assistants, and patients, to tailor the screening approach. EHR-integrated screening for alcohol and drug use was then implemented in 3 large health systems (urban and rural), with 9 clinics. Over 66,000 patients were screened in the first year, with screening rates over 90% in some practices.²

The screening implementation approaches were well accepted by most providers and patients. The insights gained from this study can help clinical leaders and practitioners choose and implement effective screening strategies through a four-step process: **Select, Integrate, Prepare, and Monitor.**



SELECT brief validated screening tools to detect unhealthy alcohol and drug use, that are feasible to implement in medical settings.



INTEGRATE screening strategies and create plans for implementation in a variety of clinical workflows.

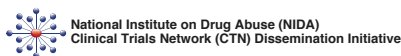


PREPARE to use a toolkit of strategies, materials, and data reports for education, implementation, and monitoring of screening in practice.



MONITOR to evaluate patient care outcomes.

FUNDING SOURCE:



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In Collaboration with



1. McNeely, J., Kumar, P. C., Rieckmann, T., Sedlander, E., Farkas, S., Chollak, C., Kannry, J. L., Vega, A., Waite, E. A., Peccoraro, L. A., Rosenthal, R. N., McCarty, D., & Rotrosen, J. (2018). Barriers and facilitators affecting the implementation of substance use screening in primary care clinics: a qualitative study of patients, providers, and staff. *Addiction science & clinical practice*, 13(1), 8. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13722-018-0110-8>

2. McNeely, J., Adam, A., Rotrosen, J., Wakeman, S. E., Wilens, T. E., Kannry, J., Rosenthal, R. N., Wahle, A., Pitts, S., Farkas, S., Rosa, C., Peccoraro, L., Waite, E., Vega, A., Kent, J., Craven, C. K., Kaminski, T. A., Firmin, E., Isenberg, B., Harris, M., ... Hamilton, L. (2021). Comparison of Methods for Alcohol and Drug Screening in Primary Care Clinics. *JAMA network open*, 4(5), e2110721. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.10721>

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