

C.A.G.E.-AID QUESTIONNAIRE

The **C.A.G.E.-AID** questions comprise a quick screening tool to assess for the risk of serious alcohol or drug problems. **In the past have you ever:**

- a) felt that you wanted or needed to **C**ut down on your drinking or drug use?
- b) been **A**nnoyed or **A**ngered by others' complaining about your drinking or drug use?
- c) felt **G**uilty about the consequences of your drinking or drug use?
- d) had a drink or taken a drug in the morning (**E**ye-opener) to decrease hangover or withdrawal symptoms?

One positive response to any one of the C.A.G.E.-AID questions would suggest caution. Two or more positive responses may have a sensitivity varying from 60-95% and specificity from 40-95% in diagnosing serious alcohol or drug problems. The predictive value is highly dependant on the population screened (Ewing 1984, Brown and Rounds 1995, Brown 1998). The C.A.G.E. screen used by itself, seems to have less predictive value in the elderly, in college students, women and certain ethnic groups. Two or more positive responses on the C.A.G.E. should strongly suggest a formal assessment by an addiction professional prior to prescribing long-term opioid therapy.

References:

Brown RL, Leonard T, Saunders LA et al. A two-item screening test for alcohol and other drug problems. *J Fam Pract* 1997; 44:151-160.

Brown RL, Rounds LA. Conjoint screening questionnaires for alcohol and other drug abuse: criterion validity in a primary care practice. *Wis Med J* 1995; 4(3):135-40.

Ewing JA. Detecting alcoholism: the C.A.G.E. questionnaire. *JAMA* 1984; 252:1905-1970.

Chabal C, Erjavec MK. Prescription opioid abuse in chronic pain patients: clinical criteria, incidence, and predictors. *Clin J Pain* 1997; 13(2): 150-5

Comptom P, Darakjian J, Miotto K. Screening for addiction in patients with chronic pain and problematic substance use: Evaluation of a pilot assessment tool. *J Pain Symptom Managa* 1998; 16(6): 355-363

Dunbar SA, Katz NP. Chronic opioid therapy for non-malignant pain in patients with a history of substance abuse: Report of 20 cases. *J Pain Symptom Manage* 1996; 11(3): 163-171