

CAGE



What substance does this tool screen for?

Alcohol

Is this tool appropriate to use with people with HIV?

The CAGE has been used in HIV care settings. Universal screening is appropriate.

Who administers and scores the tool?

- Optimally self-administered by clients either electronically or on paper.
- If screening verbally, by a staff person or health care provider who has been trained to administer the CAGE, reading questions as written and not providing any additional information until after completion.
- Any staff person or health care provider can be trained to score the CAGE.

Has this tool been validated?

While the CAGE has been used to detect heavy or hazardous drinking; findings have shown that it is less sensitive and specific than the AUDIT (see page 33) when used for these purposes.³⁶ However, the CAGE has been found to be superior to the AUDIT for detecting individuals who may be found to have an alcohol use disorder following further assessment.³⁶

Please see reference list: 36 and 37

Note: CAGE is an acronym formed from the italicized words in the questionnaire (cut-annoyed-guilty-eye).

