

TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION, AND OTHER SUBSTANCE USE TOOLS (TAPS-1, TAPS-2)



What substances do these tools screen for?

TAPS-1 screens for tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs, and non-medical use of prescription drugs.

A positive TAPS-1 screening should be followed by the administration of TAPS-2, a substance-specific assessment.



Are these tools appropriate to use with people with HIV?

Yes, the TAPS-1 and TAPS-2 have been administered to people with HIV and validated within this population.

Who administers and scores the tools?

- It is recommended that the TAPS-1 and TAPS-2 (when indicated) be self-administered by clients either electronically or on paper.
- If screening verbally, a staff person or health care provider that has been trained to administer the TAPS-1 and TAPS-2 in a consistent manner, reading questions as written, and not providing any additional information until after completion.
- Any staff person or health care providers can be trained to score the TAPS-1 and TAPS-2.



Have these tools been validated?

Yes, the TAPS-1 and TAPS-2 tools have been evaluated for sensitivity and specificity. Sensitivity is found to range between 62% to 93% and specificity between 93% and 79% depending on substance.

Please see reference list: 26 and 27

Access the TAPS screening tool online:

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/taps/#/>

