

# CAGE



## What substance does this tool screen for?

Alcohol

*Note: the CAGE screens for alcohol only. If you are looking for a tool that screens for both alcohol and drugs, The CAGE-AID was adapted for that purpose and is available on page 13.*

## 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 35) when used for these purposes.<sup>35</sup> 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.<sup>35</sup>

*Please see reference list: 35 and 36*

*Note: CAGE is an acronym formed from the italicized words in the questionnaire.*

