# The CAGE and CAGE-AID Questions

The original CAGE questions appear in plain type. The CAGE questions Adapted to Include Drugs (CAGE-AID) are the original CAGE questions modified by the *italicized text.*

The CAGE or CAGE-AID should be preceded by these two questions:

1. Do you drink alcohol?
2. Have you ever experimented with drugs?

If the patient has experimented with drugs, ask the CAGE-AID questions. If the patient only drinks alcohol, ask the CAGE questions.

***CAGE and CAGE-AID Questions***

1. In the last three months, have you felt you should cut down or stop drinking or *using drugs?*

Yes No

1. In the last three months, has anyone annoyed you or gotten on your nerves by telling you to cut down or stop drinking or *using drugs?*

Yes No

1. In the last three months, have you felt guilty or bad about how much you drink *or use drugs?*

Yes No

1. In the last three months, have you been waking up wanting to have an alcoholic drink or *use drugs?*

Yes No

**Each affirmative response earns one point. One point indicates a possible problem. Two points indicate a probable problem.**

Reference: The Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. Project SAEFP Workshop Materials, Screening and Assessment Module, page

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The normal cutoff for the CAGE is two positive answers, however, the Consensus Panel recommends that the primary care clinicians lower the threshold to one positive answer to cast a wider net and identify more patients who may have substance abuse disorders. A number of other screening tools are available.

CAGE is derived from the four questions of the tool: Cut down, Annoyed, Guilty, and Eye-opener