

OVERDOSE SCREENING INSTRUMENT

QUESTIONS:

1) What is an Overdose Risk Screening and how can this instrument help individuals?

- The Overdose Risk Screen is a short list of thirteen (13) questions that provide a perspective on the individual's risk for overdose behaviors.
- This screening aims to identify risky behavior and assist the person with getting the help they need.

2) How do I use the Screening Instrument?

- The screening instrument is a self-report process; therefore every effort to frame the honest answering of questions is the first step in forming a foundation. Explaining the screening process is a way to reduce risk of fatal, undetected overdose but not to be punitive about the person's drug use.

3) How reliable is The Screening Instrument?

- The screening instrument provides a broad indicator of risk. Overdose behavior is unpredictable and drug purity is always changing. The screening questions can aggregate risky behavior into a low, moderate or high category.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) If the answer to a question is "YES" then count it as **ONE POINT**.
- 2) If the answer to a question is "NO" - then is "zero" and has **NO POINTS**.
- 3) Mark any notes related to your answer.
- 4) Add up the total score to establish the level of risk.

OVERDOSE SCREENING INSTRUMENT

- 1) Have you ever taken more than the prescribed amount of medication to experience relief?
 Yes No

- 2) Have you ever mixed your prescription medications with other illegal drugs or alcohol?
 Yes No

- 3) Have you ever run out of your prescribed medication before your prescription was due to be refilled?
 Yes No

- 4) Do you misuse more than one drug at a time? (For example: mix alcohol or other non-prescription drugs with prescribed medication)
 Yes No

- 5) Have you ever had "blackouts" (periods where you didn't remember while under the influence) as a result of drug or alcohol use?
 Yes No

- 6) Have you ever experienced withdrawal symptoms (felt sick) when you stopped using drugs?
 Yes No

- 7) Would you describe yourself as having low -moods or depression? (For example: feeling "blue", not motivated or loss of your self-confidence)
 Yes No

- 8) Do you usually tend to use drugs/drink alcohol alone?
 Yes No

OVERDOSE SCREENING INSTRUMENT

9) Do you experience that your use is not predictable?
(For example: Getting drugs from different places, use different amounts, use drugs you are not sure what they are?)

Yes No

10) Is one of the medications/drugs you use a benzodiazepine
(Ex: Xanax (alprazolam), Librium, Valium (diazepam), and Ativan (lorazepam))?

Yes No

11) Have you recently had your medications/drugs interrupted by a stay
in jail or a hospital?

Yes No

12) Have you overdosed in the past year? (2 points)

Yes No

13) Have you overdosed two or more times in the past year? (2 points)

Yes No

TOTAL SCORE: _____

SCORING:

- All questions are worth one point with the exception of number **12 and 13**, which are worth **two points** each. Total Possible Points =15.
- Note: Questions 12 and 13 deserve special consideration if either answer is "yes",
- Scores 1-5 may be low / moderate risk and only need education / prevention.
- 5 and above: a referral / intervention should occur if they are currently still using prescription drugs.