

Michigan Alcohol Screening Test (MAST)

Developed in 1971, the Michigan Alcohol Screening Test (MAST) is one of the oldest and most accurate alcohol screening tests available, effective in identifying dependent drinkers with up to 98 percent accuracy.

Questions on the MAST test relate to the patient's self-appraisal of social, vocational, and family problems frequently associated with heavy drinking. The test was developed to screen for alcohol problems in the general population.

Over the years, there have been several variations of the MAST developed, including the brief MAST, the short MAST, as well as the self-administered MAST. The following is the 22-question, self-administered MAST.

The MAST Test

The MAST Test is a simple, self-scoring test that helps assess if you have a drinking problem. Answer yes or no to the following questions:

1. Do you feel you are a normal drinker? ("normal" is defined as drinking as much or less than most other people)
 Yes No
2. Have you ever awakened the morning after drinking the night before and found that you could not remember a part of the evening?
 Yes No
3. Does any near relative or close friend ever worry or complain about your drinking?
 Yes No
4. Can you stop drinking without difficulty after one or two drinks?
 Yes No
5. Do you ever feel guilty about your drinking?
 Yes No
6. Have you ever attended a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)?
 Yes No
7. Have you ever gotten into physical fights when drinking?
 Yes No
8. Has drinking ever created problems between you and a near relative or close friend?
 Yes No
9. Has any family member or close friend gone to anyone for help about your drinking?
 Yes No
10. Have you ever lost friends because of your drinking?
 Yes No

The MAST Test (continued...)

11. Have you ever gotten into trouble at work because of drinking?

Yes No

12. Have you ever lost a job because of drinking?

Yes No

13. Have you ever neglected your obligations, family, or work for two or more days in a row because you were drinking?

Yes No

14. Do you drink before noon fairly often?

Yes No

15. Have you ever been told you have liver trouble, such as cirrhosis?

Yes No

16. After heavy drinking, have you ever had delirium tremens (DTs), severe shaking, visual or auditory (hearing) hallucinations?

Yes No

17. Have you ever gone to anyone for help about your drinking?

Yes No

18. Have you ever been hospitalized because of drinking?

Yes No

19. Has your drinking ever resulted in your being hospitalized in a psychiatric ward?

Yes No

20. Have you ever gone to any doctor, social worker, clergyman, or mental health clinic for help with any emotional problem in which drinking was part of the problem?

Yes No

21. Have you been arrested more than once for driving under the influence of alcohol?

Yes No

22. Have you ever been arrested, or detained by an official for a few hours, because of other behavior while drinking?

Yes No

Scoring the MAST Test:

Score one point if you answered "no" to the following questions: 1 or 4. Score one point if you answered "yes" to the following questions: 2, 3, 5 through 22.

A total score of six or more indicates hazardous drinking or alcohol dependence and further evaluation by a healthcare professional is recommended.

Sources:

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of the San Fernando Valley. Michigan Alcohol Screening Test (MAST).