

RAPID ALCOHOL PROBLEMS SCREEN (RAPS)

The Rapid Alcohol Problems Screen (RAPS) was developed by Cheryl J. Cherpitel at the Alcohol Research Group, a program of the Public Health Institute in Emeryville, California (Cherpitel, C.J., Drug and Alcohol Dependence, 40:133-137, 1995). It is a 5-item screening instrument which has been found to have good sensitivity and specificity for identifying those currently meeting diagnostic criteria (ICD-10 and DSM-IV) for alcohol dependence in emergency department and other primary care settings. The instrument has been shown to perform equally well across ethnic groups (whites, blacks, Mexican-Americans) in the U.S., and for males and females in the U.S. and in Mexico.

The RAPS is a brief instrument. There is no weighting, adding or scoring of responses. A positive response on any item qualifies as being positive on the RAPS. The first question of the RAPS, having to do with feeling guilt or remorse after drinking, identifies over 80% of those meeting criteria for alcohol dependence.

The RAPS4 is a 4-item version of the RAPS (Cherpitel, C.J., Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 61:447-449, 2000), and excludes the last item having to do with losing friends because of drinking. The RAPS4 has been found to perform as well as the RAPS in clinical settings.

The RAPS4-QF is a 6-item version of the RAPS4 (Cherpitel, C.J., Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, 26:1686-1691, 2002; Cherpitel, C.J. and Bazargan, S., Drug and Alcohol Dependence, 71:275-280, 2003), which includes two items related to quantity and frequency of alcohol consumption. A positive response on both of these items increases sensitivity of the RAPS4 for identifying those currently meeting diagnostic criteria for alcohol abuse (DSM-IV) and harmful drinking (ICD-10). Both the RAPS4 and RAPS4-QF have been found to have good sensitivity and specificity for alcohol use disorders in the general population and in clinical populations. A full description of the development and application of the RAPS/RAPS4/RAPS4-QF can be found in: Cherpitel, C.J., The Rapid Alcohol Problems Screen (RAPS): Methods and Application, Comprehensive Handbook of Alcohol Related Pathology, Vol. 3, Selective Methods Used in Alcohol Research, Eds. V.R. Preedy and R.R. Watson, Academic Press (Elsevier Science): London, UK, Chapter 105:1415-1427, 2005.

RAPS4-QF

Y

N

1. During the last year have you had a feeling of guilt or remorse after drinking? (Remorse)

2. During the last year has a friend or a family member ever told you about things you said or did while you were drinking that you could not remember? (Amnesia)

3. During the last year have you failed to do what was normally expected from you because of drinking? (Perform)

4. Do you sometime take a drink when you first get up in the morning? (Starter)

5. During the last year have you lost friends or girlfriends or boyfriends because of drinking?

6. During the last year have you had 5 or more drinks on at least one occasion? (Quantity)

OR

During the last year do you drink as often as once a month? (Frequency)