

Screening

Problem Drinking

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force
1996

Recommendation <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstf/uspdrin.htm>

Screening to prevent problem drinking is recommended for all adult and adolescent patients. Screening should involve a careful history of alcohol use and/or the use of standardized screening questionnaires.

Routine measurement of biochemical markers is not recommended in asymptomatic persons.

Pregnant women should be advised to limit or cease drinking during pregnancy. Although there is insufficient evidence to prove or disprove harms from light drinking in pregnancy, recommendations that women abstain from alcohol during pregnancy may be made on other grounds.

All persons who use alcohol should be counseled about the dangers of operating a motor vehicle or performing other potentially dangerous activities after drinking alcohol.

[Guide to Clinical Preventive Services, 2nd Edition](#)
[Screening for Problem Drinking, 1996](#)

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