

Table 3–4
Using the AUDIT score with the FLAGS approach for treatment interventions

AUDIT score + history + observations	
Low risk (M: < 8; F: 7)	Risky or harmful (M: 8–15; F: 7–15)
Problematic (16–19)	Alcohol Dependent (> 20)
Feedback results	Feedback results
Listen to patient's concerns	Listen to patient's concerns
Provide Alcohol education and information	Advise patient re. need for further assessment/referral to specialist
Goals of treatment General awareness Reinforces/maintains low risk drinking Assists patients problems, patients who have cut down, or whose circumstances may change	Goals of treatment Likely dependent Discuss importance/ relevance of abstinence Provide information Establish treatment goals
Goals of treatment Assists those drinking at risky levels Encourage reduction of consumption to recommended limits e.g. 2 alcohol free days per week	Goals of treatment To manage or encourage moderation of hazardous and harmful patterns of drinking Manage risk Failure to respond, or indications that further diagnostic evaluation is required suggests dependence
Goals of treatment Simple Advice and information Creates awareness of low risk range Informs patient about consequences of continued drinking, brief counselling, ongoing monitoring	Goals of treatment Advise patient about consequences of continued drinking, brief counselling, ongoing monitoring Assess and tailor advice to Stage of Change
Feedback results Listen to patient's concerns	Feedback results Listen to patient's concerns
Strategies discussed and implemented Gain greater understanding of 'trigger' situations Offer self-help booklet Offer follow up appointment to discuss progress, and use of booklet	Strategies discussed and implemented Possible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawal management (detoxification) • Pharmacotherapies PLUS supportive therapy Weigh pros and cons of treatment. Negotiate goals. Encourage supportive therapies Monitor and follow up or refer to AOD worker or specialist if necessary
Strategies discussed and implemented Gain greater understanding of 'trigger' situations Offer self-help booklet Offer follow up appointment to discuss progress, and use of booklet	Strategies discussed and implemented Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawal management (detoxification) • Pharmacotherapies PLUS supportive therapy Specialist help or primary care and community-based support Monitor and follow up

Source: adapted from APF (2001, p. 14), Babor et al. (2001) and O'Connor & Simmons (2002)