

ASSIST-LITE IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Harland, J., Ali, R., Henry-Edwards, S. and Gowing, L. (2019) ASSIST-Lite in the Emergency Department, DASSA-WHO Collaborating Centre, University of Adelaide, Australia

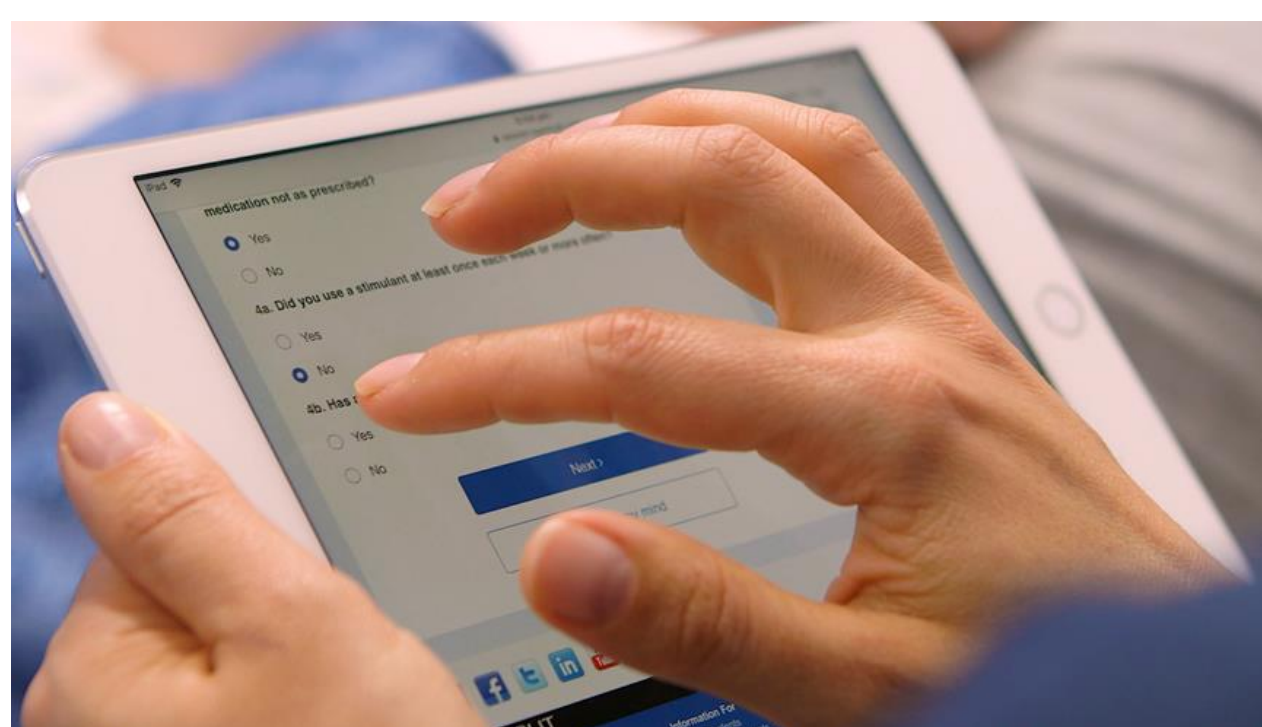
The ASSIST-Lite is an ultra-rapid screener which has been optimised for medical settings which rapidly identifies those at risk of harm because of their substance use. It can be used as a stand-alone screening tool, as the first part of a comprehensive drug and alcohol assessment, or to monitor an individual's progress. (Ali, et al. 2013)

Many health care professionals avoid screening and brief intervention for substance use. Reasons for not implementing screening and brief intervention in Emergency Departments include:

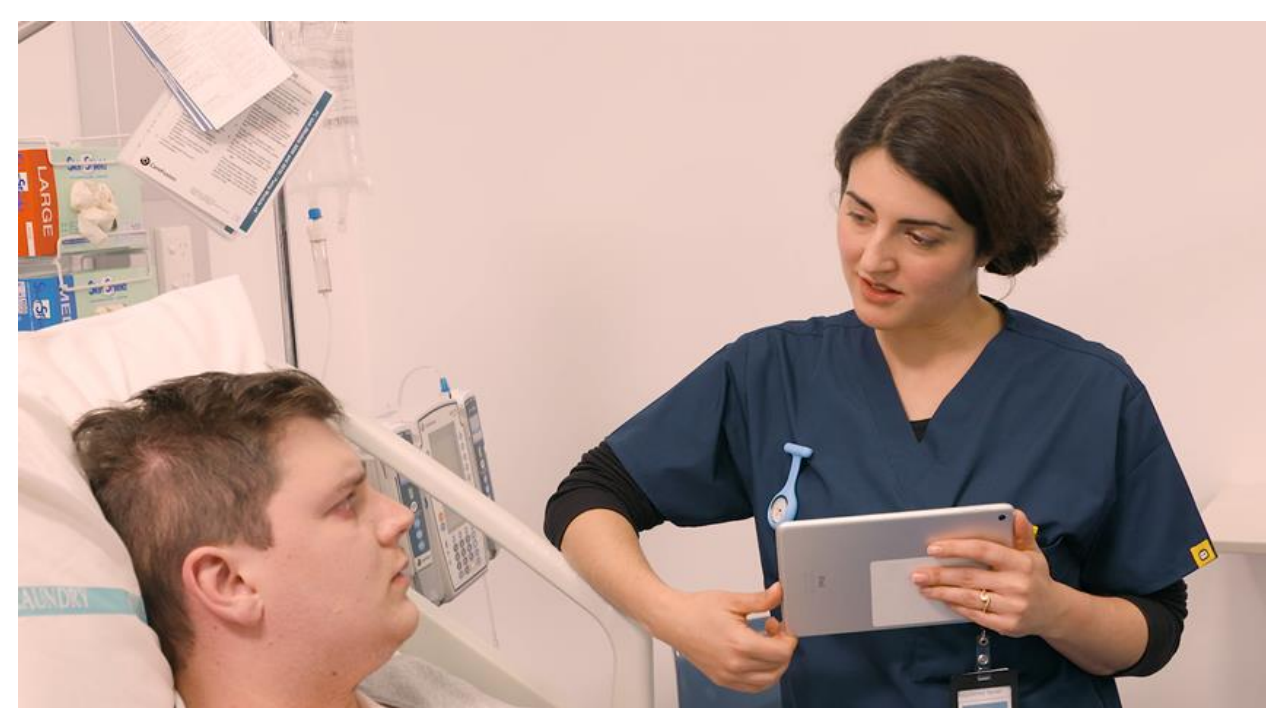
- a lack of time
- feeling that they are not competent or capable of giving an intervention
- concerns regarding how screening and brief intervention fit with other assessment and intervention
- concern that they will experience resistance and defensiveness from patients



This resource addresses the barriers using a simple step-by-step approach. Screening and brief interventions have been shown to be acceptable and motivating for many people with hazardous or harmful substance use (Humenuik, et al. 2010). In Emergency Departments, screening and brief intervention offers an opportunity to provide assistance to people at risk from their substance use who may not have otherwise sought help. It provides Emergency Department staff with a simple, valid method of providing timely support and brief intervention to patients in their care.



The instructional video demonstrates how the ASSIST-Lite can be self-administered via computer tablet during a range of presentations to the Emergency Department.



The ASSIST-Lite screens for use of alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, amphetamine type stimulants, sedatives, opioids and others drugs.



The risk of harm score for each substance helps to initiate and frame a brief discussion with individuals about their substance use.

The ASSIST-Lite in the Emergency Department instructional video and manual are available on the ASSIST Portal (assistportal.com.au). Hard copies can be ordered via dassawhocentre@adelaide.edu.au

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References:

- Ali, R., Meena, S., Eastwood, B., Richards, I. & Marsden, J. (2013) Ultra-rapid screening for substance use disorders: The Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST-Lite) Drug and Alcohol Dependence 132 352-361
- Humenuik RE, Henry-Edwards S, Ali RL, Poznyak V and Monteiro M (2010). The ASSIST-linked brief intervention for hazardous and harmful substance use: manual for use in primary care. Geneva, World Health Organization.