

# Recommendations at a glance

Full guidelines at <http://www.bccsu.ca/aud-guideline>

## Screening and Brief Intervention

- Provide education about Canada's Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines to all patients
- Screen all patients annually for alcohol use
- Provide a brief counselling intervention to patients above low risk limits who do not have an AUD

## Withdrawal Management

- Use the Prediction of Alcohol Withdrawal Severity Scale (PAWSS) to assess a patient's risk of severe withdrawal complications
- Offer outpatient withdrawal management to patients at low risk of severe withdrawal complications
- Consider prescribing non-benzodiazepene medications for outpatient management of patients at low risk of severe withdrawal complications
- Refer patients at high risk of severe withdrawal complications to an inpatient facility for medically-supervised withdrawal management
- Connect patients who complete withdrawal management to continuing AUD care

## Continuing Care

- Offer adult patients with moderate to severe AUD first-line pharmacotherapy to support achievement of patient-identified treatment goals
  - Naltrexone is recommended for a treatment goal of either abstinence or reduced alcohol consumption
  - Acamprosate is recommended for a treatment goal of abstinence
- Offer topiramate or gabapentin to adult patients with moderate to severe AUD as second-line pharmacotherapy
- Provide motivational interviewing-based counselling to all patients with AUD
- Provide information about and referrals to specialist-led psychosocial treatments to all patients with AUD
- Provide information about and referrals to peer-support groups and other community-based recovery-oriented services to all patients with AUD

GRADE ranking (quality of evidence):

- High
- Moderate
- Low

\*AUD: Alcohol Use Disorder

Provincial Guideline for the  
Clinical Management of

# High-Risk Drinking and Alcohol Use Disorder

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