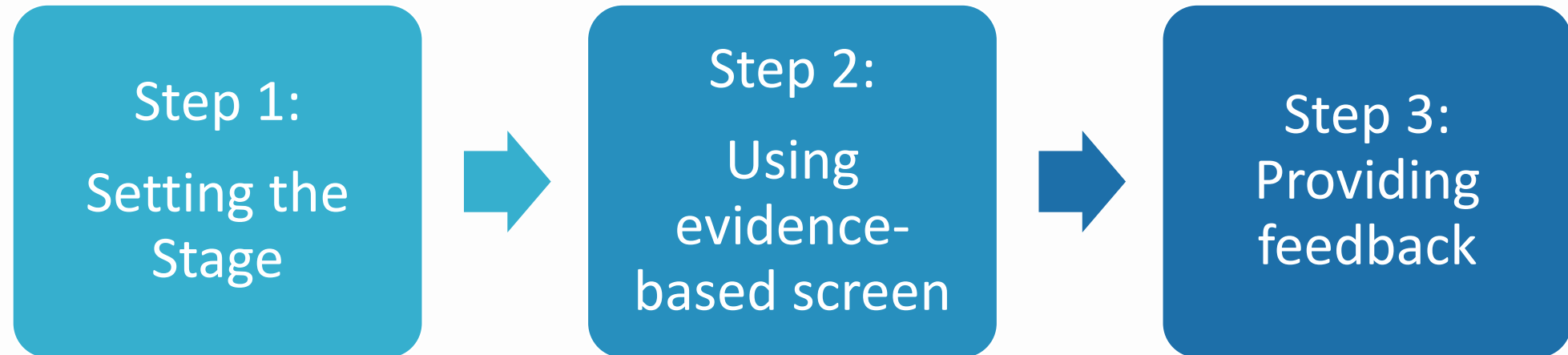


3 Steps of Substance Use Screening



Step 1: Setting the Stage for Screening

Scripts Can Help

- Non pregnant adult: **NORMALIZE**
 - “Substance use can affect health, so I ask all my patients yearly about their use of nicotine, alcohol and other drugs.”
- Pregnant adult: **ADDRESS STIGMA**
 - “My pregnant patients often have questions or concerns about using nicotine, alcohol or other substances during pregnancy or before realizing they were pregnant. How about you?”
- Adolescent: **CONFIDENTIALITY**
 - Speaking with patient alone: “Use of nicotine, alcohol, marijuana and other drugs , if any, during adolescence can affect health and development. What you tell me about that is confidential unless it would endanger yourself or someone else. Do you have any questions about that?”

Step 2: Use Evidence-Based Screens

Such as:

- Do you smoke or use other nicotine products?
- **SQAS (Adolescent and Adults)**
 - Age 12-17: How many times in the past 12 months did you drink any alcohol (> a few sips)?
 - Adults: How many times in the past 12 months have you had more than [4(men),3(women)] drinks in one day?
- **SQDS**
 - How many times in the past year have you used an illegal drug or used a prescription medication for non-medical reasons (like to get high)?

Step 3: Give targeted feedback that's brief and relevant to the patient's level of use

Abstinent/Non-excessive Use:

- Reinforce healthy choices and leave door open

Excessive Use/SUD mild/moderate/SUD severe:

- Express concern, connect substance use to patient's health (when possible) and seek patient perspective
- Share excessive drinking limits, if applicable, and seek patient perspective
- Ask permission to continue discussion (transition to BI)

You are training your staff in the practice's new SBIRT workflow. Your SBIRT champion implementation team has determined, given your patient population's overall discomfort with completing electronic and paper forms, that the medical assistants will administer the evidence-based screening instrument verbally as they are rooming the patients and enter the results into the EHR for the provider to review.

One of the medical assistants expresses concern that asking patients about their substance use may offend them.

Which of the statements below is an example of normalizing communication when setting the stage for screening?

A. "These are interview questions that we ask patients with certain risk factors for nicotine, alcohol and other drugs use."

B. "Do you use nicotine, alcohol or other drugs regularly?"

C. "Because of the reason for your visit today, I need to ask a few routine questions about your lifestyle that I ask patients like you."

D. "We ask all our patients about their nicotine, alcohol and other drugs use as part of their medical history because it can have an important impact on overall health."