



**I – Low Risk**

**II – Moderate Risk**

**III – High Risk**

**IV – Severe Risk**

### **Raise the Subject**

- “If it’s okay with you, let’s take a minute to talk about the annual screening form you’ve filled out today.”

### **Provide Feedback**

- “As your provider it’s my responsibility to tell you that drinking (drug use) at this level can be harmful to your health and possibly contributing to the health problem you came in with today.”
- “These are the labs that are affected by your drinking.”

### **Enhance Motivation**

- On a scale of 0-10, how ready are you to cut back?
- If >0: “Why that number and not a \_\_\_ (lower one)?”
- If 0: “Have you ever done anything while drinking (using drugs) that you later regretted?”

### **Negotiate Plan**

- “What steps can you take to cut back your use?”
- “How would your drinking (drug use) have to impact your life in order for you to start thinking about cutting back?”

**Add the CPT code for a brief intervention to your encounter: 99408**

## Low-Risk Drinking Limits

	Drinks per week	Drinks per day
Men	≤ 14	≤ 4
Women	≤ 7	≤ 3
All ages > 65	≤ 7	≤ 3



12 oz.  
Beer

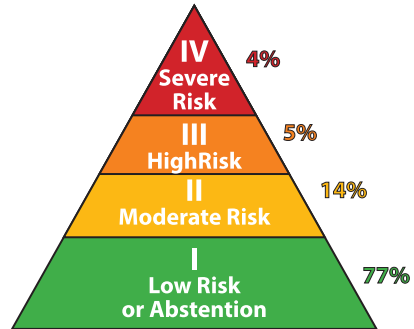


5 oz.  
Glass of wine



1.5 oz (shot)  
of liquor

## Categories of Drinking



Source: Survey of the Healthcare Experiences of Patients, 2008, VA Office of Quality and Performance



Special thanks to Oregon Health & Science University,  
Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment

VA  PAHCS  
Veterans Affairs | Palo Alto Health Care System

VA  
HEALTH  
CARE

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**EXCELLENCE**  
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