

Role play: Keegan

For the health professional:

Keegan is a 35-year-old, non-binary patient who arrived at the ER with an abscess on his arm and a blood infection. Keegan was given morphine for heroin withdrawal, and treated for the infection and abscess. These are Keegan's answers on the DAST screening tool:

Please check which recreational drugs you have used in the past year:

- methamphetamines (speed)
- cocaine
- cannabis (marijuana, pot)
- narcotics (heroin, oxycodone, methadone, etc.)
- solvents (paint thinner)
- hallucinogens (LSD)
- tranquilizers (Valium)
- other _____

How often have you used these drugs? Monthly or less Weekly Daily or almost daily

1. Have you used drugs other than those required for medical reasons?	No	Yes
2. Do you abuse more than one drug at a time?	No	Yes
3. Are you unable to stop using drugs when you want to?	No	Yes
4. Have you ever had blackouts or flashbacks as a result of drug use?	No	Yes
5. Do you ever feel bad or guilty about your drug use?	No	Yes
6. Does your spouse (or parents) ever complain about your involvement with drugs?	No	Yes
7. Have you neglected your family because of your use of drugs?	No	Yes
8. Have you engaged in illegal activities in order to obtain drugs?	No	Yes
9. Have you ever experienced withdrawal symptoms (felt sick) when you stopped taking drugs?	No	Yes
10. Have you had medical problems as a result of your drug use (e.g. memory loss, hepatitis, convulsions, bleeding)?	No	Yes

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Have you ever injected drugs? Never Yes, in the past 90 days Yes, more than 90 days ago

Have you ever been in treatment for substance abuse? Never Currently In the past

I II III IV
0 1-2 3-5 6+

For the patient:

You are a 35-year-old non-binary person who arrived at the ER with an abscess on your arm and a blood infection. After waiting at least 12 hours in the emergency department, you began withdrawing from heroin – sweating profusely, extremely anxious and in pain. You were given morphine for the withdrawal, and treated for the infection and abscess.

These are some of your thoughts and feelings related to your heroin use - you may or may not disclose this information depending on how you are approached by the medical professional:

You have been using heroin on and off for about 12 years. You have struggled with depression in the past but are not taking any medicine for your depression right now because your Medicaid had been cut off. You just got your Medicaid turned back on.

You are currently staying in a shelter. You have been in and out of shelters for about nine years. Initially, when you got out of one of the shelters, you were put into housing where there was still a lot of drug use going on. You eventually got back into drugs and lost your housing.

You've showed up to the emergency department in the past with track marks, and have admitted using heroin. You suspect you have been labeled as "drug seeking".

One time, a doctor was lancing and draining an infection you had without giving you an anesthetic. He squeezed my abscess and some of it got underneath his mask. He actually hit you on your side while you were lying down. You weren't able to go to that hospital for a couple of years after that.

You do not believe you can quit heroin right now, but you are interested in taking suboxone or methadone. You would also like to avoid getting abscesses in the future.

For the observer:

Brief intervention observation sheet

Did the health professional . . .

Raise subject

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1) Ask patient for permission to discuss substance use? | Yes | No |
| 2) Define their role before beginning discussing the patient's use. | Yes | No |
| 3) Elicit the patient's own description of their use, including perceived pros and cons. | Yes | No |

Share information

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 4) Explain any connection between use and health complaint (if applicable). | Yes | No |
| 5) Share information about of risks of use, low-risk limits. | Yes | No |
| 6) Ask the pt what they think of the information just provided. | Yes | No |

Enhance motivation

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 7) Summarize patient's perceived pros and cons of use. | Yes | No |
| 8) Ask what the pt wants to change about their use. | Yes | No |
| 9) Use the Readiness Ruler. Ask, "Why not a lower number?" | Yes | No |

Identify plan

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 10) If patient sounds ready, ask them to identify a plan of change. | Yes | No |
| 11) Affirm patient's readiness to change and affirm their plan. | Yes | No |

How well did the health professional use a guiding style of communication?

Not at all

Very well

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Adapted from the BI Adherence/Competence Scale, created by D'Onofrio et al. for Project ED Health.