Impaired Control Scale (ICS)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The ICS is a three-part instrument measuring (1) the degree to which a subject has attempted to exercise control over drinking in the last month, (2) the degree of success in controlling drinking in the last 6 months, and (3) the subject’s belief in his or her ability to control drinking if it were attempted.

**TARGET POPULATION**

- Adults
- Adolescents

*Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?*

Individuals with any degree of alcohol dependence

**ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

- Number of items: 25
- Number of subscales: 3
- Format(s): Pencil-and-paper self-administered
  - Interview
  - Observation
  - Computer self-administered
  - Other
- Time required for administration: 5 to 10 minutes
- Administered by: Clinician
- Training required for administration? Yes No
- Comments: Self-administered, but interviewer should be present in case of difficulties. For reliability, the ICS should be administered by someone with clinical experience in the treatment of alcohol problems.
SCORING

Time required to score/interpret: 2 to 3 minutes
Scored by: Administrator
Computerized scoring or interpretation available? □ yes ☒ no
Norms available? ☒ yes □ no
Instrument normed on subgroups? ☒ yes □ no
Which groups? Clinical sample of problem drinkers and normal, non-problem samples. A new scoring method has been developed (the substitution method) that combines Parts 2 and 3 and gives a score for all respondents, irrespective of whether they have tried to control drinking in the last 6 months or not.

PSYCHOMETRICS

Have reliability studies been done? ☒ yes □ no
What measure(s) of reliability was used?
☑ Test-retest
□ Split half
☒ Internal consistency

Have validity studies been done? ☒ yes □ no
What measures of validity have been derived?
☒ Content
☒ Criterion (predictive, concurrent, “postdictive”)
□ Construct

CLINICAL UTILITY OF INSTRUMENT

Usefulness in assessment of alcohol problems. Possibly differential assignment to moderation or abstinence treatment goals.

RESEARCH APPLICABILITY

To investigate phenomenon of impaired control; to investigate alcohol dependencies generally; matching studies of treatment outcome; possible predictor of treatment outcome

SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Copyright: ☒ yes □ no
Cost: None
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**SOURCE REFERENCES**
