Important People and Activities Instrument (IPA)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**
The IPA assesses the person’s involvement in their social network and activities, and the support of the social network and activities of the person’s drinking and abstinence. The time window for self-reported observation is adjustable. The usual period is either the past 4 months or the past 6 months. The instrument includes key questions, with other questions adapted to fit the purposes of its use. Subsequent, shorter versions of the IPA have been implemented in more recent studies, but do not have established psychometric properties.

**TARGET POPULATION**
- Adults
- Adolescents (over 16 years)

**Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?**
Treatment-seeking people with alcohol problems

**ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**
Number of items: 19
Number of subscales:
Format(s):
- □ Pencil-and-paper self-administered
- □ Interview
- □ Observation
- □ Computer self-administered
- □ Other

Time required for administration: 20 to 30 minutes
Administered by: Research assistant
Training required for administration? □ yes □ no
Comments: 2 hours of training are sufficient

**SCORING**
Time required to score/interpret: 30 minutes
Scored by: Research assistant
Scoring key? □ yes □ no
Computerized scoring or interpretation available? □ yes □ no
Norms available? □ yes □ no
Instrument normed on subgroups? □ yes □ no
Which groups? Alcohol-dependent, treatment-seeking aftercare patients and outpatients
Comments: Project MATCH OPT and Aftercare samples
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

The IPA can assist the clinician in developing a treatment plan for the patient in terms of inclusion/exclusion of members of the patient’s social network in treatment, what to focus on with these members, and assisting patient in finding ways to either reduce the negative influence of his/her network or utilize them more effectively in promoting recovery.

Prognostic indicator of drinking outcome, client-treatment matching

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


**SUPPORTING REFERENCES**


