



# Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN)

The Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN) is an assessment instrument used for diagnosis, placement, and treatment planning. GAIN is used in a variety of settings, including outpatient, intensive outpatient, partial hospitalization, methadone, short-term residential, long-term residential, therapeutic community, and correctional programs. The GAIN is used for individuals 12 years of age and older.

## Content

The GAIN has eight core sections:

- Background
- Substance Use
- Physical Health
- Risk Behaviors & Disease Prevention
- Mental & Emotional Health
- Environment & Living Situation
- Legal
- Vocational

Each section contains questions on the recency of problems, extent of symptoms, and recent prevalence. The assessment also looks at service utilization including lifetime use, recency of use, and frequency. There are over 100 scales and subscales included in the GAIN.

## Assessments:

**GAIN-Short Screener (GAIN-SS)** = 2-page (5 minute) screening form for use with the general population to quickly identify those with internalizing or externalizing disorders, issues with crime/violence, and/or substance use.

**GAIN-Quick (GAIN-Q)** = 11-15 page (20-30 minute) form for basic assessment of a targeted population to determine eligibility and need for referral. It can also be used to support motivational interviewing related to substance use.

**GAIN-Initial (GAIN-I)** = 61-100 page (120 minute) standardized assessment for use in substance abuse diagnosis, placement, treatment planning, outcome monitoring, economic analysis, and/or program planning. This assessment can also be used to support motivational interviewing.

## Materials and Administration

The GAIN is available in both paper and electronic forms. It can be administered with a computer or with paper and pencil. The assessment should be completed by a certified GAIN administrator to maintain validity and reliability.

## Norms

Norms have been established for both adults and adolescents across levels of care. Additional norms are currently being established by gender and race.

## Reliability and Validity

Studies have shown good test/retest reliability ( $r = .7$  to  $.8$ ) as well as diagnostic consistency (kappa of  $.5$  to  $.7$ ) with both adults and adolescents.

## Licensure, Training, and Support

Chestnut Health Systems holds the copyright of the GAIN. GAIN trainings are held throughout the year and continuing education credits (CEU) are available. GAIN software, which includes data entry as well as the ability to create clinical reports, is available for purchase. There is a licensing fee of \$100 per agency for five years of access to the family of GAIN assessments.

## References:

The official website for the assessment: <http://www.chestnut.org/li/gain>

Contact [GAINInfo@chestnut.org](mailto:GAINInfo@chestnut.org) for information on training, licensing, or software purchase.

Dennis, M.L., Chan, Y.F., & Funk, R. (2006). Development and validation of the GAIN Short Screener (GSS) for psychopathology and crime/violence among adolescents and adults. *American Journal on Addictions, 15*, 80-91.



NC DHHS  
DMH/DD/SAS  
Community Policy Management  
Substance Abuse Services  
3005 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-3005  
919-733-4670  
919-733-4556 (fax)

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