



## Background on Screening Tests

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America's Memory Screening Advisory Board, a panel of distinguished researchers in the field of dementia testing, has identified four tests that meet the following accepted criteria for use as a screening instrument:

- *Effective* — sensitive and specific (i.e., detect memory impairment accurately)
- *Easy to administer* — takes less than five minutes
- *Validated by research* — the tests received support for effectiveness and ease-of-use in published reviews in peer-reviewed journals (see references on the next page).

### Tests identified by AFA's Memory Screening Advisory Board:

- BAS\* (Brief Alzheimer's Screening)
- GPCOG (General Practitioner Assessment of Cognition)
- Mini-Cog\*
- MIS (Memory Impairment Screen)

*\*The BAS and Mini-Cog are offered in a combined computerized version at [www.afascreenings.org/tests/](http://www.afascreenings.org/tests/) (with a valid login)*

AFA is able to offer the tests for free for use during AFA's National Memory Screening Program events, thanks to the generous permission of the copyright holders. Please remember that the copyright holders have granted permission to use these tools *only* for National Memory Screening Program events. If you wish to use them for additional screening events or for a research study, please contact the copyright holders or authors.

You may download these tests for your National Memory Screening Program event by logging into your account at [www.afascreenings.org/users/](http://www.afascreenings.org/users/). Alternatively, if the screener has access to a computer, he/she may administer the computerized version of the test by logging into the testing center at [www.afascreenings.org/tests/](http://www.afascreenings.org/tests/).

**Please note:**

- For sites participating in the National Memory Screening Program, AFA requires that qualified healthcare professionals administer the screenings and that the screenings are conducted face-to-face, rather than via self-administered computerized tests. *(Please note that the computerized testing materials that AFA provides are also to be administered face-to-face by qualified healthcare professionals.)*
- AFA does not recommend any specific test, and you are not required to use these tests. We are merely making them available because they meet the criteria noted above. We list them here in alphabetical order.
- AFA does not specify which screening tests must be used as part of the National Memory Screening Program. You may choose any test that you consider appropriate and that can be conducted face-to-face.

**Additional Information:**

The tests were developed by authors of peer-reviewed papers: BAS (Mendiondo et al, 2003), GPCOG (Brodaty 2002/6), the Mini-Cog (Borson et al, 2003) and the MIS (Buschke et al, 1999).

The tests have been reviewed in the following papers:

- Ashford, J., Borson, S., O'Hara, R., Dash, P., Frank, L., Robert, P., Shankle, W., Tierney, M., Brodaty, H., Schmidt, F., Kraemer, H., & Buschke, H. (2006). Should older adults be screened for dementia? *Alzheimer's and Dementia*, 2, 76-85
- Brodaty, H., Low, L.F., Gibson, L. & Burns, K. (2006). What is the best dementia screening instrument for general practitioners to use? *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 14 (5), 391-400.
- Gifford, D., & Cummings, J. (1999). Evaluating dementia screening tests. *Neurology*, 52, 224.
- Lorentz, W., Scanlan, J., & Borson, S. (2002). Brief screening tests for dementia. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 47(8), 723-733.
- Shulman, K., Herrmann, N., Brodaty, H., Chiu, H., Lawlor, B., Ritchie, K., & Scanlan, J. (2006). IPA survey of brief cognitive screening instruments. *International Psychogeriatrics*, 18 (2), 281-294.
- Marta Mendiondo, Ph.D., Wes Ashford, M.D., Ph.D., Richard Kryscio, Ph.D., Frederick A. Schmitt, Ph.D. (2003), Designing a Brief Alzheimer Screen (BAS). *J Alzheimers Dis.* 391-398.