

DON'T FORGET TO ASK

ASSESSING THE RISK OF LUNG INJURY IN PATIENTS USING E-CIGARETTE, OR VAPING, PRODUCTS



You should ask all patients about their use of e-cigarette, or vaping, products.

This is particularly important for patients with any of the following symptoms:

- Respiratory- cough, chest pain, shortness of breath
- Gastrointestinal- abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or
- Constitutional- fever, chills, weight loss

ASK WITH EMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING

Some patients may not be comfortable talking about their e-cigarette, or vaping, product use, especially those who use products that contain THC or CBD. To put patients at ease, be empathetic, nonjudgmental, and remind them their responses are confidential and an important part of their medical exam.

Adolescents and young adults are more likely to share sensitive information if you ask a parent/guardian to step outside the exam room.

You may need to ask additional questions that are appropriate to each patient's special situation or circumstances.

RESOURCES

For information on EVALI clinical guidance please see www.cdc.gov/lunginjury. Guidance for assessing and treatment of EVALI is evolving and will continue to be updated as new evidence becomes available. Our website will have the most current information available.

Resources to help patients stop the use of e-cigarette, or vaping, products can be found at <https://smokefree.gov/>.

ASK WHAT, HOW, AND WHERE

- WHAT:** Ask the patient if they have used or tried e-cigarettes, or vaping, products. If the answer is yes, ask for more details about the products, including the types of substances used.
- » Most EVALI patients report using THC-containing products before the onset of symptoms.
- HOW:** Ask how often patients have used these products, and when they last used the products.
- » Many EVALI patients report frequent (e.g. more than five times per day) use of e-cigarette, or vaping, products. One prompt that may help to determine usage is to ask how often the patient finishes or changes their cartridges?
- WHERE:** Ask where the e-cigarette, or vaping, products were obtained.
- » Most EVALI patients report using products from informal sources, including family, friends, online or in person dealers.



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