GAIN-Q4 Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the GAIN-Q4?**

The Global Appraisal of Individual Needs Quick version 4 (GAIN-Q4) is a standardized bio-psychosocial assessment used to identify and address a wide range of problems among adolescents and adults in clinical and general populations in diverse settings.

The GAIN-Q4 provides provisional substance use and mental health diagnoses consistent with DSM-5 for the clinician to review and confirm. The GAIN-Q4 also provides a preliminary severity rating for each of the 6 ASAM dimensions and a range of overall level of care recommendations that are likely to be appropriate. All ratings are fully editable by the clinician in the GAIN ABS software.

1. **What information does the GAIN-Q4 collect?**

The GAIN-Q4 consists of ten screeners (Background, School Problems, Work Problems, Withdrawal Management,Physical Health, Sources of Stress, Risk Behaviors for Infectious Diseases, Mental Health, Substance Use, and Crime and Violence) that estimate the severity of problems and recency of treatment participation in each life area represented. The GAIN-Q4 also collects a measure of the participant’s wellbeing and family environment. Problem prevalence and quality of life across the ten screeners, quarterly healthcare costs to society, and life satisfaction are also calculated.

1. **What credentials/education do I need to administer the GAIN-Q4 assessment?**

There is no minimum education, licensure, or credentials required to use the GAIN. We highly recommend training on how to administer the GAIN and ideally GAIN certification. Staff who are interpretingthe results of the assessment to make decisions about services and treatment for clients should be qualified to do so based on state or local standards, especially confirming and signing off on diagnosis. We always recommend checking local or state standards to confirm that you have the qualifications to administer the assessment to clients, generate reports, and confirm diagnosis and level of care placement. In other words, credentials and qualifications needed to use the GAIN are decided locally, not by the GAIN Coordinating Center.

1. **Is training available for the GAIN-Q4?**

Yes. Training on the GAIN-Q4 begins with an online administration course that covers key GAIN administration skills and some of the more nuanced portions of the assessment, includes a video administration demonstration, covers basics on the clinical summary reports, and prepares the trainee to complete their 1st assessment. The GAIN-Q4 online administration course takes about 8 hours total to complete and does not have to be completed in one sitting.

Once a trainee has completed the online coursework, they can go on to submit recorded interviews to the GAIN Coordinating Center to pursue GAIN Administrator certification. We will review the interview, provide written detailed written feedback on key administration skills, and outline next steps towards certification. This process continues for up to three months until the interviewer demonstrates the ability to maintain or add to the validity of the information collected during an interview with a real client. On average it takes three to five submitted interviews to reach certification. We recommend that candidates who pursue this level of certification are those who will often be conducting GAIN interviews at their agency or will go on to become Local Trainer certified.

Once Administrator certification is achieved, a trainee is eligible to continue on to Local Trainer Certification. This is an additional three-month process that provides training to learn to write formal feedback and determine readiness for certification of other GAIN users at their agency. This can be a time-consuming process (between 45-50 hours), so it is recommended that only candidates who will be actively training other GAIN users pursue this level. Once someone is certified as a GAIN Local Trainer, they are eligible to train and recommend staff from their agency for GAIN Site Interviewer Certification.

\*We also offer in-person training options for 10 or more trainees. Please contact [gaininfo@chestnut.org](mailto:gaininfo@chestnut.org) for a training budget and additional information.

1. **How does the GAIN-Q4 differ from the GAIN-Q3?**

The GAIN-Q4 includes the 9 screeners in the GAIN-Q3 plus a new Withdrawal Management screener. The Mental Health and Substance Use screeners in the GAIN-Q4 include several additional items to support the provisional diagnoses, ASAM severity ratings, and level of care recommendations across the 6 ASAM dimensions. The GAIN-Q4 also adds measures for the participant’s wellbeing and family environment.

1. **How does the summary report differ from the GAIN-Q4 compared to the GAIN-Q3?**

The GAIN-Q4 summary report is organized by DSM-5 diagnosis and ASAM dimension, whereas the GAIN-Q3 summary report is organized by life area/section of the GAIN-Q3 assessment.

Unlike the GAIN-Q3, the summary report for the GAIN-Q4 provides provisional DSM-5 diagnoses, severity and recommendations by ASAM dimension, and overall level of care recommendations. These diagnoses, ASAM ratings, and level or care recommendations are fully editable by the clinician in the GAIN ABS software.

1. **Is the summary report for the GAIN-Q4 editable?**

Yes, the summary report is fully editable in the GAIN ABS software so the clinician can remove, edit, and add information from outside sources before finalizing the report.

1. **How long does it take to administer the GAIN-Q4?**

The GAIN-Q4 takes approximately 35-45 minutes to administer. Interviewer experience and the participant’s problem severity can affect the time to administer.

1. **What is the difference in administration time between the GAIN-Q3 and GAIN-Q4?**

We would estimate spending 10-15 additional minutes administering the GAIN-Q4 compared to the GAIN-Q3.

1. **What are the costs for the GAIN-Q4?**

To use the GAIN-Q4 an agency needs a GAIN License for copyright permissions and access to the GAIN ABS software. GAIN ABS is $360 per user per year for unlimited assessments and client summary reports/results. Discounts are provided for purchasing multiple user accounts. The GAIN License fee is waived with the purchase of GAIN ABS. There is no per assessment fee and all PDF copies are available for download at no additional cost.

Training on how to administer the GAIN-Q4 is $600 per person for Online Coursework only or $2,100 per person for Online Coursework with Administrator certification or $3,100 per person for Online Coursework with Administrator and Local Trainer certification. Details on the training process are outlined in FAQ 3 above.

Additionally, we offer optional GAIN Data Management Services designed to help programs maintain valid and reliable assessment data to support clinical decision-making about diagnosis, placement, treatment planning and program evaluation. GAIN Data Management Services can be tailored to meet a program’s needs and budget. Please contact [gaininfo@chestnut.org](mailto:gaininfo@chestnut.org) for more details.

1. **If my agency already has a GAIN License and access to GAIN ABS, is there a cost to get access to the GAIN-Q4?**

No. To have the GAIN-Q4 assessment added to your GAIN ABS account, contact your GAIN Project Coordinator or [gaininfo@chestnut.org](mailto:gaininfo@chestnut.org), and we can make the update to your GAIN ABS access at no cost.

1. **If I am already trained in the GAIN-Q3, do I need additional training to use the GAIN-Q4?**

No, GAIN-Q3 training and certification applies to the GAIN-Q4. However, we can provide additional information if you have any questions about the new items or differences in reports. Please reach out to [gaininfo@chestnut.org](mailto:gaininfo@chestnut.org) for more information.

1. **Can the GAIN-Q4 interface with my EHR?**

Yes. The web-based GAIN ABS software provides unlimited access to the GAIN-Q4 and resulting narrative summary reports. If you purchase GAIN ABS, you can link your EHR access with your GAIN ABS access so you can get seamless single sign-on access to the GAIN-Q4 and all other features of GAIN ABS. If interested in setting up the integration in your EHR system, basic information can be found at <https://gaincc.org/gain-abs-integration/>.