Key questions for patient assessment

When conducting an alcohol and other drug assessment, there are some key questions to keep in mind.

1. What drugs are currently being used – start with prescribed & OTC – reason for use. Effect / benefit of use. Changes in use over time
2. Ask about alcohol and other drugs
3. Time of last use
4. How much typically used – quantity, amount spent,
5. Times when use may be more or less
6. Pattern of use
7. How drug is administered – oral, injection, snorted
8. Periods of non use – how they felt
9. Previous withdrawal episodes
10. Presenting signs & symptoms
11. Withdrawal seizures – when last one occurred. Witnessed?
12. Blood results – CBE, LTF
13. Dietary intake
14. Changes in sleep patterns
15. Current and previous Physical health issues – Current and previous Mental health issues – anxiety, depression, suicide ideation, mental health diagnosis
16. Employment – how they spend their day
17. Contact with other health and community agencies