

Remote Reconstruction

Items 59–66 Followup Only

If the client missed a prior followup period, continue with a new Form 90–AF (or 90–AT) to reconstruct the missed period. It is desirable to complete items 1–37 and 48–58, but highest priority should be given to quantifying drinking during the missed period. At items 1–3, indicate the followup period *being reconstructed*.

Item 59

At item 59, indicate the *present* followup point, *from which* reconstruction is being done (not the period *being reconstructed*). It is vital to fill in item 59 for all reconstructions, because it is the item that signals data analysts that this Form 90 is a retrospective reconstruction.

Always use a calendar to remind the client about the missing period. In some cases, it will be possible to complete the calendar in a straightforward manner. For example, a client may clearly recall abstaining throughout the missing period except for 2 days at a holiday. In such a case, complete the calendar form as usual. If, on the other hand, a day-by-day reconstruction of drinking is not viable, fill in memorable events to aid with memory and then use the following procedure.

First, obtain an approximate date of the first drink (item 36) and the last drink (item 37) during the missing interval. If drinking was continuous, these will be the first and last days of the interval, respectively.

Item 60–61

Second, ask for an estimate of the number of abstinent (A) days that occurred during the missing followup period. Again, show the client a calendar for the period. It may also be helpful to ask the client to compare the missing period with the most recent followup window, just discussed. Record the estimated number of abstinent days as item 60. The remaining days in the followup window (item 2 minus item 60) constitute the number of drinking days during the missing period (item 61).

Item 62

Third, ask for an estimate of the number of days during this period when the client had 6 or more drinks. Use the standard drink (SEC)

definition. An illustrative graphic is provided with the form, which may be helpful here.

Items 63–66

The final important task is to ask clients to compare their drinking *during the missing period* with their drinking during the period just described. Rather than attempting a full reconstruction, ask the client how the missing followup period would compare with the window you just finished discussing.

"Would the amount of drinking on drinking days be about the same? More? If so, how much more? Less? If so, how much less?"

Some clients can give a percentage estimate (e.g., about half as many, about twice as much) that can be used to approximate the number based on the anchor period. Note that this is an estimate only for the *amount* of drinking on drinking days, not the *number* of days of drinking, which is a separate issue (item 61). The question here is:

"On days/weeks when you did drink, how would your drinking compare to drinking days from the most recent period which we just discussed?"

What is needed here is a multiplier (item 64) which best captures the client's comparison of these two periods. It is not likely that most clients could generate this number themselves. Rather, the interviewer must make the decision, based on the client's report. For example, if the client's estimate is "about half as much," the interviewer could use 0.50 as the multiplier. Similarly, if the client suggests "twice as much," the multiplier chosen would be 2.00.

Calculate the product of this multiplier and item 63, the average SECs per drinking day for the current period obtained from summary statistics. This yields item 65, the best guess as to the average number of SECs per drinking day during the missing period.

Alternatively, ask directly for an estimate of the number of standard drinks per drinking day during this interval and enter it on item 65.

Finally, item 65 is multiplied by item 61 to estimate the total number of SECs consumed during the missing followup period (item 66). These calculations can also be completed electronically with greater reliability.

If no estimate of SECs per drinking day is available from the current period (e.g., the client was abstinent during the current period, but drank during the missing period), ask the client to estimate the amount of drinking on a typical drinking day during the interval, and enter that number (in SECs) as item 65.