Additional file 8. Risk of bias assessments for included studies.

	BI vs. no BI		BI vs. written info		
	Baer 2007	Humeniuk 2008	Bernstein 2009	Zahradnik 2008	Bernstein 2005
Random sequence generation	low	low	low	unclear	low
Allocation concealment	unclear	low	unclear	unclear	low
Blinding participants and personnel	high	high	high	high	high
Blinding assessors – Substance use	-	-	unclear	unclear	low
Blinding assessors – Frequency of use	high	-	unclear	-	-
Blinding assessors – Quantity of use	-	-	-	unclear	low
Blinding assessors – Harms/negative consequences	-	-	unclear	-	-
Blinding assessors – Positive behaviour change	-	-	unclear	-	-
Blinding assessors – Decision to attend treatment	-	-	-	-	high[a]
Blinding assessors – Composite outcomes	-	high	-	-	-
Blinding assessors – Use of different substances	-	-	-	-	low[a]
Blinding assessors – Intention to reduce use	-	-	-	-	-
Blinding assessors – Other health measures (objective)	low	-	-	-	-
Blinding assessors – Other health measures (subjective)	high	-	unclear	-	high
Blinding assessors – Other adverse outcomes	-	-	-	-	-
Incomplete outcome data – Substance use	-	-	high	low	unclear
Incomplete outcome data – Frequency of use	high	-	high	-	-
Incomplete outcome data – Quantity of use	-	-	-	unclear	unclear
Incomplete outcome data – Harms/negative consequences	-	-	high	-	-
Incomplete outcome data – Positive behaviour change	-	-	high	-	-
Incomplete outcome data – Decision to attend treatment	-	-	-	-	high[a]
Incomplete outcome data – Composite outcomes	-	unclear	-	-	-
Incomplete outcome data – Use of different substances	-	-	-	-	unclear[a]
Incomplete outcome data – Intention to reduce use	-	-	-	-	-
Incomplete outcome data – Other health measures (objective)	high	-	-	-	-
Incomplete outcome data – Other health measures (subjective)	high	-	high	-	unclear
Incomplete outcome data – Other adverse outcomes	-	-	-	-	-
Selective reporting	high	high	unclear	unclear	high
Other bias	high	unclear	low	unclear	high

Abbreviations: BI=brief intervention; info=information; vs.= versus. Outcomes not reported in a study denoted by "-".
[a]Risk of bias assessed by outcome data poorly reported by authors.

Legend: ⊕ = low risk of bias, ? = unclear risk of bias, ⊖ = high risk of bia