

Brief Evaluation of Psychosis Symptom Domains (BE-PSD)

Ver. 2.0

Instruction Manual

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Second version of Brief Evaluation of Psychosis Symptom Domains (BE-PSD)

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I. Overview of the scale

- The scale is designed to individually assess the overall severity of five symptom domains of psychosis, but not designed to comprehensively assess the severity of all symptoms of psychosis.
- The scale consists of five symptom domains of psychosis: Psychotic symptoms; Disorganized thinking; Negative symptoms; Excitement/Mania; and Depression/Anxiety.

II. Instructions for rating

- Rate the severity based on the *frequency* of symptoms and their *impact on behavior* during *the past week* (except for Disorganized thinking and “Diminished emotional expression” of Negative symptoms).
- Rate *Disorganized thinking* and “*Diminished emotional expression*” of Negative symptoms based on the *frequency of behavior observed during the interview* and its *impact on the interview*.
- Rate the symptoms *mentioned in description* in each domain.
- Rate the severity considering *all symptoms* in each domain.
- Rate the severity *NOT* considering the *etiology* of symptoms.
- Use *all available information sources* (e.g., patient, family members, caregivers, and staff).
- Score the severity on each domain from 0 (*Absent*) to 6 (*Very severe*).
- *Subdomains* of each symptom domain (i.e., “*Hallucinations*” and “*Delusions*” of Psychotic symptoms, “*Diminished emotional expression*” and “*Avolition*” of Negative symptoms, “*Excitement*” and “*Mania*” of Excitement/Mania, and “*Depression*” and “*Anxiety*” of Depression/Anxiety) can be scored.
- The following is the general rating system of the scale.

Symptom domain		
Score	Code	Anchor point
0	Absent	No symptoms occur.
1	Minimal	Symptoms rarely occur AND have no impact on behavior.
2	Mild	Symptoms rarely occur AND have little impact on behavior.
3	Moderate	Symptoms sometimes occur OR have some impact on behavior.
4	Moderately severe	Symptoms frequently occur OR have significant impact on behavior.
5	Severe	Symptoms occur most of the time OR have serious impact on behavior.
6	Very severe	Symptoms occur most of the time AND have serious impact on behavior.

- In the event that the rating is indecisive, choose the *highest score* (i.e., greater severity).
- If the domain cannot be assessed, note *NA*.
- Use the *sum of the five symptom domain scores* as the *overall symptom severity of the disorder*.

1. Psychotic symptoms

Rate the frequency of the following symptoms and their impact on behavior during the past week:

- **Hallucinations:** Auditory, gustatory, olfactory, somatic, tactile, and visual hallucinations, etc.
- **Delusions:** Persecutory, referential, grandiose, erotomanic, guilt, poverty, somatic, and nihilistic delusions, and bizarre delusions (e.g., thought withdrawal, thought insertion, and delusions of control), etc.

Psychotic symptoms		
0	Absent	No psychotic symptoms occur.
1	Minimal	Psychotic symptoms rarely occur AND have no impact on behavior
2	Mild	Psychotic symptoms rarely occur AND have little impact on behavior.
3	Moderate	Psychotic symptoms sometimes occur OR have some impact on behavior.
4	Moderately severe	Psychotic symptoms frequently occur OR have significant impact on behavior.
5	Severe	Psychotic symptoms occur most of the time OR have serious impact on behavior.
6	Very severe	Psychotic symptoms occur most of the time AND have serious impact on behavior.

2. Disorganized thinking

Rate the frequency of the following symptoms observed during *the interview* and their impact on *the interview*:

- Disorganized thinking and formal thought disorder (e.g., derailment, loose associations, tangentiality, flight of ideas, racing thoughts, thought blocking, incoherence, and “word salad”), etc.

Disorganized thinking		
0	Absent	No disorganized thinking is observed.
1	Minimal	Disorganized thinking is rarely observed AND has no impact on the interview.
2	Mild	Disorganized thinking is rarely observed AND has little impact on the interview.
3	Moderate	Disorganized thinking is sometimes observed OR has some impact on the interview.
4	Moderately severe	Disorganized thinking is frequently observed OR has significant impact on the interview.
5	Severe	Disorganized thinking is observed most of the time OR has serious impact on the interview.
6	Very severe	Disorganized thinking is observed most of the time AND has serious impact on the interview.

3. Negative symptoms*

Rate the following symptoms: the frequency of “diminished emotional expression” observed during *the interview* and its impact on *the interview*; the frequency of “avolition” and its impact on behavior during the past week:

- **Diminished emotional expression:** Reductions in the expression of emotions in the face, eye contact, intonation of speech (i.e., prosody), and movements of the hands, head, and face, etc.
- **Avolition:** A reduction in interest, pleasure, motivation, and motivated self-initiated purposeful activities (e.g., sitting for long periods of time and little interest in participating in work and social activities), etc.

* Diminished emotional expression and avolition observed in any type of psychosis, including mood disorders, should be evaluated here.

Negative symptoms		
0	Absent	No diminished emotional expression is observed AND no avolition occurs.
1	Minimal	[Diminished emotional expression is rarely observed AND has no impact on the interview.] OR [Avolition rarely occurs AND has no impact on behavior.]
2	Mild	[Diminished emotional expression is rarely observed AND has little impact on the interview.] OR [Avolition rarely occurs AND has little impact on behavior.]
3	Moderate	[Diminished emotional expression is sometimes observed OR has some impact on the interview.] OR [Avolition sometimes occurs OR has some impact on behavior.]
4	Moderately severe	[Diminished emotional expression is frequently observed OR has significant impact on the interview.] OR [Avolition frequently occurs OR has significant impact on behavior.]
5	Severe	[Diminished emotional expression is observed most of the time OR has serious impact on the interview.] OR [Avolition occurs most of the time OR has serious impact on behavior.]
6	Very severe	[Diminished emotional expression is observed most of the time AND has serious impact on the interview.] OR [Avolition occurs most of the time AND has serious impact on behavior.]

4. Excitement/Mania

Rate the frequency of the following symptoms and their impact on behavior during the past week:

- **Excitement:** Excitement, psychomotor agitation (i.e., increased non-goal-directed activity), restlessness, aggression, hostility, uncooperativeness, and poor impulse control, etc.
- **Mania:** Elevated, expansive, and irritable mood, increased goal-directed activity and energy, inflated self-esteem, and grandiosity, etc.

Excitement/Mania		
0	Absent	No excitement/mania occurs.
1	Minimal	Excitement/mania rarely occurs AND has no impact on behavior
2	Mild	Excitement/mania rarely occurs AND has little impact on behavior.
3	Moderate	Excitement/mania sometimes occurs OR has some impact on behavior.
4	Moderately severe	Excitement/mania frequently occurs OR has significant impact on behavior.
5	Severe	Excitement/mania occurs most of the time OR has serious impact on behavior.
6	Very severe	Excitement/mania occurs most of the time AND has serious impact on behavior.

5. Depression/Anxiety

Rate the frequency of the following symptoms and their impact on behavior during the past week:

- **Depression:** Depressed mood (e.g., feelings of sadness, emptiness, and hopelessness), feelings of worthlessness and guilt, thoughts of death, suicidal ideation, and a suicide attempt, etc.
- **Anxiety:** Anxiety, worry, and somatic symptoms of tension including panic attacks, etc.

Depression/Anxiety		
0	Absent	No depression/anxiety occurs.
1	Minimal	Depression/anxiety rarely occurs AND has no impact on behavior
2	Mild	Depression/anxiety rarely occurs AND has little impact on behavior.
3	Moderate	Depression/anxiety sometimes occurs OR has some impact on behavior.
4	Moderately severe	Depression/anxiety frequently occurs OR has significant impact on behavior.
5	Severe	Depression/anxiety occurs most of the time OR has serious impact on behavior.
6	Very severe	Depression/anxiety occurs most of the time AND has serious impact on behavior.

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Rating sheet:

Symptom domains		Score
1	Psychotic Symptoms	
2	Disorganized Thinking	
3	Negative Symptoms	
4	Excitement/Mania	
5	Depression/Anxiety	
Total		

General rating system:

Symptom domain		
Score	Code	Anchor point
0	Absent	No symptoms occur.
1	Minimal	Symptoms rarely occur AND have no impact on behavior.
2	Mild	Symptoms rarely occur AND have little impact on behavior.
3	Moderate	Symptoms sometimes occur OR have some impact on behavior.
4	Moderately severe	Symptoms frequently occur OR have significant impact on behavior.
5	Severe	Symptoms occur most of the time OR have serious impact on behavior.
6	Very severe	Symptoms occur most of the time AND have serious impact on behavior.

- In the event that the rating is indecisive, choose the *highest score* (i.e., greater severity).
- If the domain cannot be assessed, note *NA*.