
BRIEF PSYCHIATRIC RATING SCALE (BPRS)

Patient Name _____

Today's Date _____

Please enter the score for the term that best describes the patient's condition.

0 = Not assessed, 1 = Not present, 2 = Very mild, 3 = Mild, 4 = Moderate, 5 = Moderately severe, 6 = Severe, 7 = Extremely severe

Score

1. SOMATIC CONCERN

Preoccupation with physical health, fear of physical illness, hypochondriasis.

2. ANXIETY

Worry, fear, over-concern for present or future, uneasiness.

3. EMOTIONAL WITHDRAWAL

Lack of spontaneous interaction, isolation deficiency in relating to others.

4. CONCEPTUAL DISORGANIZATION

Thought processes confused, disconnected, disorganized, disrupted.

5. GUILT FEELINGS

Self-blame, shame, remorse for past behavior.

6. TENSION

Physical and motor manifestations of nervousness, over-activation.

7. MANNERISMS AND POSTURING

Peculiar, bizarre, unnatural motor behavior (not including tic).

8. GRANDIOSITY

Exaggerated self-opinion, arrogance, conviction of unusual power or abilities.

9. DEPRESSIVE MOOD

Sorrow, sadness, despondency, pessimism.

10. HOSTILITY

Animosity, contempt, belligerence, disdain for others.

11. SUSPICIOUSNESS

Mistrust, belief others harbor malicious or discriminatory intent.

12. HALLUCINATORY BEHAVIOR

Perceptions without normal external stimulus correspondence.

13. MOTOR RETARDATION

Slowed, weakened movements or speech, reduced body tone.

14. UNCOOPERATIVENESS

Resistance, guardedness, rejection of authority.

15. UNUSUAL THOUGHT CONTENT

Unusual, odd, strange, bizarre thought content.

16. BLUNTED AFFECT

Reduced emotional tone, reduction in formal intensity of feelings, flatness.

17. EXCITEMENT

Heightened emotional tone, agitation, increased reactivity.

18. DISORIENTATION

Confusion or lack of proper association for person, place or time.

BRIEF PSYCHIATRIC RATING SCALE (BPRS)

Instructions for the Clinician:

The Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS) is a widely used instrument for assessing the positive, negative, and affective symptoms of individuals who have psychotic disorders, especially schizophrenia. It has proven particularly valuable for documenting the efficacy of treatment in patients who have moderate to severe disease.

It should be administered by a clinician who is knowledgeable concerning psychotic disorders and able to interpret the constructs used in the assessment. Also considered is the individual's behavior over the previous 2-3 days and this can be reported by the patient's family.

The BPRS consists of 18 symptom constructs and takes 20-30 minutes for the interview and scoring. The rater should enter a number ranging from 1 (not present) to 7 (extremely severe). 0 is entered if the item is not assessed.

First published in 1962 as a 16-construct tool by Drs. John Overall and Donald Gorham, the developers added two additional items, resulting in the 18-item scale used widely today to assess the effectiveness of treatment.

BPRS Scoring Instructions:

Sum the scores from the 18 items. Record the total score and compare the total score from one evaluation to the next as the measure of response to treatment.