

Child ID#: _____

Child age _____

Caregiver: _____

Date: _____

Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17 (PSC-17)

INSTRUCTIONS: Emotional and physical health go together in children. Because caregivers are often the first to notice a problem with their child’s behavior, emotions or learning, you may help your child get the best care possible by answering these questions. Please mark under the heading that best fits your child.

	Please mark under the heading that best fits your child			<i>For Office Use</i>		
	Never	Sometimes	Often	I	A	E
1. Feel sad.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
2. Feel hopeless.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
3. Feel down on him/herself.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
4. Worry a lot.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
5. Seem to be having less fun.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
6. Fidget, is unable to sit still.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
7. Daydream too much.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
8. Distract easily.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
9. Have trouble concentrating.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
10. Act as if driven by a motor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
11. Fight with other children.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
12. Not listen to rules.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
13. Not understand other people’s feelings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
14. Tease others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
15. Blame others for his/her troubles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
16. Refuse to share.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
17. Take things that do not belong to him her.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
TOTAL						

To Score:

Fill in the unshaded box on the right: “Never” = 0, “Sometimes” = 1, “Often” = 2.

Sum the columns.

PSC17-Internalizing score is the sum of column I.

PSC17-Attention is the sum of column A

PSC17-Externalizing is the sum of column E.

PSC-17 Total Score is the sum of PSC17-I + PSC17-A + PSC17-E.

Positive Scores:

PSC17-I ≥ 5

PSC17-A ≥ 7

PSC17-E ≥ 7

Total Score ≥ 15

Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17 (PSC-17)

Caregiver Completing this Form: _____ Date: _____

Name of Child: _____

		Please mark under the heading that best fits your child			For Office Use		
		NEVER	SOME-TIMES	OFTEN	I	A	E
1.	Fidgety, unable to sit still						
2.	Feels sad, unhappy						
3.	Daydreams too much						
4.	Refuses to share						
5.	Does not understand other people's feelings						
6.	Feels hopeless						
7.	Has trouble concentrating						
8.	Fights with other children						
9.	Is down on him or herself						
10.	Blames others for his or her troubles						
11.	Seems to be having less fun						
12.	Does not listen to rules						
13.	Acts as if driven by a motor						
14.	Teases others						
15.	Worries a lot						
16.	Takes things that do not belong to him or her						
17.	Distracted easily						
(scoring totals)							

Scoring:

- Fill in unshaded box on right with: "Never" = 0, "Sometimes" = 1, "Often" = 2
- Sum the columns.
 PSC17 Internalizing score is sum of column I
 PSC17 Attention score is sum of column A
 PSC17 Externalizing score is sum of column E
 PSC-17 Total Score is sum of I, A, and E columns

Suggested Screen Cutoff:

- PSC-17 - I \geq 5
- PSC-17 - A \geq 7
- PSC-17 - E \geq 7
- Total Score \geq 15

Higher Scores can indicate an increased likelihood of a behavioral health disorder being present.

PSC-17 Scoring

The PSC-17 can help primary care providers assess the likelihood of finding any mental health disorder in their patient. The brief and easy to score PSC-17 has fairly good mental health screening characteristics, even when compared with much longer instruments like the CBCL (Child Behavior Checklist by T. Achenbach).

A 2007 study in primary care offices compared use of the PSC-17 to simultaneous use of the CBCL in 269 children aged 8-15, showing reasonably good performance of its three subscales compared to similar subscales on the CBCL. The gold standard here was a K-SADS diagnosis, which is a standardized psychiatric interview diagnosis. These comparison statistics are summarized below, with positive and negative predictive values shown based on different presumed prevalence (5 or 15%) of the disorders. Providers should notice that despite its good performance relative to longer such measures, it is not a foolproof diagnostic aide. For instance the sensitivity for this scale only ranges from 31% to 73% depending on the disorder in this study:

K-SADS	Screen	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV 5%	PPV 15%	NPV 5%	NPV 15%
ADHD	PSC-17 Attention	0.58	0.91	0.25	0.53	0.98	0.92
	CBCL Attention	0.68	0.90	0.26	0.55	0.98	0.94
Anxiety	PSC-17 Internalizing	0.52	0.74	0.10	0.26	0.97	0.90
	CBCL Internalizing	0.42	0.88	0.13	0.38	0.97	0.90
Depression	PSC-17 Internalizing	0.73	0.74	0.13	0.33	0.98	0.94
	CBCL Internalizing	0.58	0.87	0.19	0.44	0.98	0.92
Externalizing	PSC-17 Externalizing	0.62	0.89	0.23	0.50	0.98	0.93
	CBCL Externalizing	0.46	0.95	0.33	0.62	0.97	0.91
Any Diagnosis	PSC-17 Total	0.42	0.86	0.14	0.35	0.97	0.89
	CBCL Total	0.31	0.96	0.29	0.58	0.96	0.89

W Gardner, A Lucas, DJ Kolko, JV Campo "Comparison of the PSC-17 and Alternative Mental Health Screens in an At-Risk Primary Care Sample" JAACAP 46:5, May 2007, 611-618

PSC-17 Internalizing score positive if ≥ 5
PSC-17 Externalizing score positive if ≥ 7
PSC-17 Attention score positive if ≥ 7
PSC-17 Total score positive if ≥ 15

"Attention" diagnoses can include: ADHD, ADD

"Internalizing" diagnoses can include: Any anxiety or mood disorder

"Externalizing" diagnoses can include: Conduct disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, adjustment disorder with disturbed conduct or mixed disturbed mood and conduct