

**BRIEF PSYCHIATRIC RATING SCALE
(BPRS)**

Examination Procedure

Either before or after completing the examination procedure, observe the patient unobtrusively at rest (e.g., in the waiting room).

The chair to be used in this examination should be a hard, firm one without arms.

1. Ask the patient whether there is anything in his or her mouth (such as gum or candy) and, if so, to remove it.
2. Ask about the **current** condition of the patient's teeth. Ask if he or she wears dentures. Ask whether teeth or dentures bother the patient **now**.
3. Ask whether the patient notices any movements in his or her mouth, face, hands, or feet. If yes, ask the patient to describe them and to indicate to what extent they **currently** bother the patient or interfere with activities.
4. Have the patient sit in chair with hands on knees, legs slightly apart, and feet flat on floor. (Look at the entire body for movements while the patient is in this position.)
5. Ask the patient to sit with hands hanging unsupported -- if male, between his legs, if female and wearing a dress, hanging over her knees. (Observe hands and other body areas).
6. Ask the patient to open his or her mouth. (Observe the tongue at rest within the mouth.) Do this twice.
7. Ask the patient to protrude his or her tongue. (Observe abnormalities of tongue movement.) Do this twice.
8. Ask the patient to tap his or her thumb with each finger as rapidly as possible for 10 to 15 seconds, first with right hand, then with left hand. (Observe facial and leg movements.)
9. Flex and extend the patient's left and right arms, one at a time.
10. Ask the patient to stand up. (Observe the patient in profile. Observe all body areas again, hips included.)
11. Ask the patient to extend both arms out in front, palms down. (Observe trunk, legs, and mouth.)
12. Have the patient walk a few paces, turn, and walk back to the chair. (Observe hands and gait.) Do this twice.

Scoring Procedure

Please enter the score for the term which 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

1. SOMATIC CONCERN

Degree of concern over present bodily health. Rate the degree to which physical health is perceived as a problem by the patient, whether complaints have a realistic basis or not.

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

2. ANXETY

Worry, fear, or over-concern for present or future. Rate solely on the basis of verbal report of patient's own subjective experiences. Do not infer anxiety from physical signs or from neurotic defense mechanisms.

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

3. EMOTIONAL WITHDRAWAL

Deficiency in relating to the interviewer and to the Interviewer situation. Rate only the degree to which the patient gives the impression of failing to be in emotional contact with other people in the interview situation.

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

4. CONCEPTUAL DISORGANIZATION

Degree to which the thought processes are confused, disconnected, or disorganized. Rate on the basis of integration of the verbal products of the patient; do not rate on the basis of patient's subjective impression of his own level of functioning

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

5. GUILT FEELINGS

Over-concern or remorse for past behavior. Rate on the basis of the patient's subjective experiences of guilt as evidenced by verbal report with appropriate affect; do not inter guilt feelings from depression, anxiety or neurotic defenses.

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

6. TENSION

Physical and motor manifestations of tension "nervousness", and heightened activation level. Tension should be rated solely on the basis of physical signs and motor behavior and not on the basis of subjective experiences of tension reported by the patient.

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

7. MANNERISMS AND POSTURING

Unusual and unnatural motor behavior, the type of motor behavior which causes certain mental patients to stand out in a crowd of normal people. Rate only abnormality of movements; do not rate simple heightened motor activity here.

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

8. GRANDIOSITY

Exaggerated self-opinion, conviction of unusual ability or powers. Rate only on the basis of patient's statements about himself or self-in-relation-to-others, not on the basis of his demeanor in the interview situation.

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

9. DEPRESSIVE MOOD

Despondency in mood. sadness. Rate only degree of despondency; do not rate on the basis of inferences concerning depression based upon general retardation and somatic complaints.

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

10. HOSTILITY

Animosity, contempt, belligerence, disdain for other people outside the interview situation. Rate solely on the basis of the verbal report of feelings and actions of the patient toward others; do not infer hostility from neurotic defenses, anxiety, nor somatic complaints. (Rate attitude toward interviewer under "uncooperativeness").

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

11. SUSPICIOUSNESS

Belief (delusional or otherwise) that others have now, or have had in the past, malicious or discriminatory intent toward the patient. On the basis of verbal report, rate only those suspicions which are currently held whether they concern past or present circumstances.

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

12. HALLUCINATORY BEHAVIOR

Perceptions without normal external stimulus correspondence. Rate only those experiences which are reported to have occurred within the last week and which are described as distinctly different from the thought and imagery processes of normal people.

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

13. MOTOR RETARDATION

Reduction in energy level evidenced in slowed movements. Rate on the basis of observed behavior of the patient only; do not rate on the basis of patient's subjective impression of own energy level.

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

14. UNCOOPERATIVENESS

Evidence of resistance, unfriendliness, resentment and lack of readiness to cooperate with the interviewer. Rate only on the basis of the patient's attitude and responses to the interviewer and the interview situation; do not rate on basis of reported resentment or uncooperativeness outside the interview situation.

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

15. UNUSUAL THOUGHT CONTENT

Unusual, odd, strange or bizarre thought content. Rate here the degree of unusualness, not the degree of disorganizations of thought processes.

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

16. BLUNTED AFFECT

Reduced emotional tone, apparent lack of normal feeling or involvement

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

17. EXCITEMENT

Heightened emotional tone, agitation. increased reactivity.

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

18. DISORIENTATION

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

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7