

RCI Reaching Children Initiative

Feelings Need Check Ups Too!

Use of Psychosocial Screening Tools in Clinical Practice

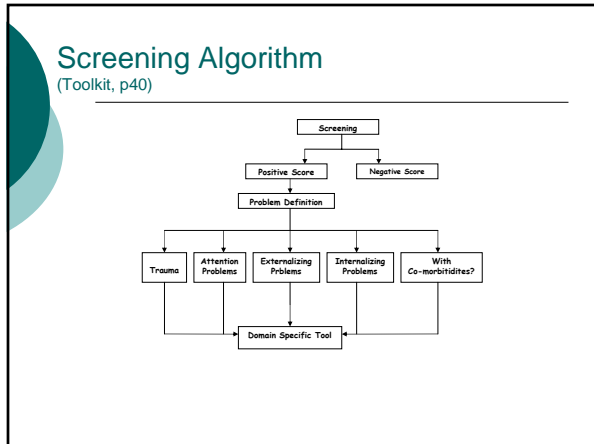
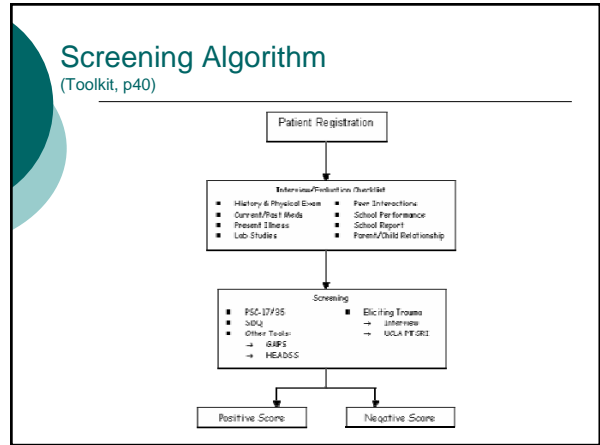
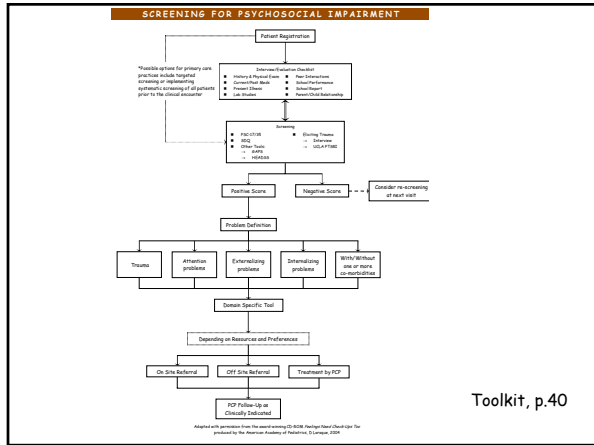
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Reaching Children Initiative Training

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Reaching Children Initiative Training



What is a Screening Tool?

- “Test done on apparently asymptomatic individuals to detect those with a high probability of having or developing disease”[1]

What is a Screening Tool?

- Fairly common, treatable disorder
- Disorder easily missed
- Test is given to everyone, not just symptomatic
- Does *not* make diagnosis
- Context of full clinical evaluation

Well suited to psychosocial problems!!

Good Sensitivity & Specificity

- Good Sensitivity
 - ability to include people with desired diagnosis
 - **Sensitivity:** Proportion of people with specific disorder who are so identified by the test

Good Sensitivity & Specificity

- Good Specificity
 - ability to exclude people without desired diagnosis
 - **Specificity:** Proportion of people who are truly free of specific disorder who are so identified by the test

Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC)**

- Psychosocial screen
- Designed for busy pediatrics office
- Widely used
- Time < 5 minutes
- English, Chinese, Spanish, other
- Cost: Free

*** In the RCI toolkit, pages 7 and 9*

Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC)**

- 17 item or 35 item formats
 - PSC 17 or PSC 35
- 12% middle income children "screen-in" or have positive scores; higher for lower income children[2]

*** In the RCI toolkit, pages 7 and 9*

Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC)**

When compared to clinicians ratings of children's psychosocial dysfunction

- Sensitivity = 95%
- Specificity = 68% [2]

This means that

- 1 - It identifies 95% of the children with a psychosocial disorder
- 2 - It only excludes 68% of the children without a disorder. Some children with a positive score will not have a psychosocial disorder. This is ok! That's why a positive score requires further assessment.

*** In the RCI toolkit, pages 7 and 9*

PSC Subscales

Externalizing Subscale

- Refuses to share
- Does not understand other people's feelings
- Fights with other children
- Blames others for his/her troubles
- Does not listen to rules
- Teases others
- Takes things that do not belong to him/her

PSC Subscales

Pediatric Symptom Checklist 17 (PSC-17)

Please mark under the heading that best describes your child.

	Never	Sometimes	Often
<input type="checkbox"/> Child's interests in you	0	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Feels sad, unhappy	0	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Feels hopeless	0	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Is down on him/herself	0	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Seems to be having less fun	0	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Worries a lot	0	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Refuses to share	0	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Does not understand other people's feelings	0	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Fights with other children	0	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Blames others for his or her troubles	0	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Does not listen to rules	0	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Teases others	0	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Takes things that do not belong to him or her	0	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Attention deficit	0	1	2

OFFICE USE ONLY
Total = _____

PSC Subscales

Internalizing Subscale

- Feels sad, unhappy
- Feels hopeless
- Is down on him/herself
- Seems to be having less fun
- Worries a lot

PSC Subscales

Pediatric Symptom Checklist 17 (PSC-17)

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<input type="checkbox"/> Takes things that do not belong to him or her	0	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Attention deficit	0	1	2

OFFICE USE ONLY
Total = _____

Scoring a PSC: Siu's Story*

Feelings Need Check Ups Too!




* In the RCI toolkit, page 13

Scoring a PSC

- Each item is rated as "Never," "Sometimes," or "Often" present and scored 0, 1, or 2, respectively
- The total score is calculated by adding together the score for each of the 17 items
 - Positive PSC-17 score ≥ 15
- Attention, Externalizing, and Internalizing subscale scores are calculated by adding the score for each corresponding symbol:
 - \diamond = Attention, positive score ≥ 7
 - \bullet = Externalizing, positive score ≥ 7
 - \square = Internalizing, positive score ≥ 5

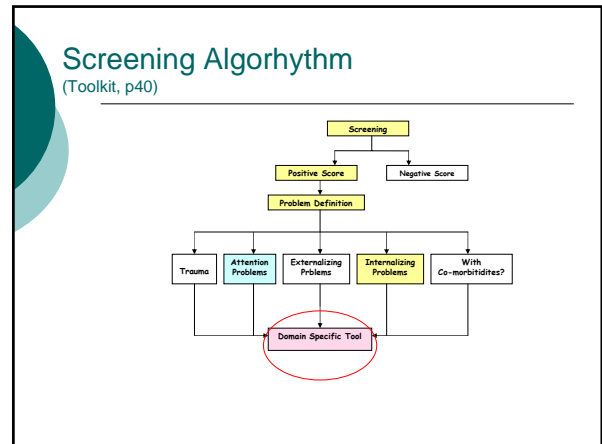
Now what?

Feelings Need Check Ups Tool



Siu: Doing poorly in school, does not pay attention, frequently worries, test anxiety

- PSC Results:
 - Overall - Positive score
 - Attention Subscale - Subthreshold
 - Internalizing Subscale - Positive
 - ? Anxiety



Now what?

Feelings Need Check Ups Tool



- Domain Specific Tool to clarify problem
 - Attention: Vanderbilt
 - Anxiety: SCARED (Toolkit, p31-36)

Interpreting a PSC: Jose's Story*

Feelings Need Check Ups Tool



* In the RCI toolkit, page 16


Scoring a PSC

- Each item is rated as "Never," "Sometimes," or "Often" present and scored 0, 1, or 2, respectively
- The total score is calculated by adding together the score for each of the 17 items
 - Positive PSC-17 score >=15
- Attention, Externalizing, and Internalizing subscale scores are calculated by adding the score for each corresponding symbol:
 - ❖ = Attention, positive score >=7
 - = Externalizing, positive score >=7
 - = Internalizing, positive score >=5

Interpreting a PSC: Jose's Story

Feelings Need Check Ups Tool

	Parent Version	Youth Version	Cutoff Score
Total Score			15
Attention Subscale			7
Externalizing Subscale			7
Internalizing Subscale			5



Interpreting a PSC: Jose's Story

Feelings Need Check Ups Tool

	Parent Version	Youth Version	Cutoff Score
Total Score	10		15
Attention Subscale	3		7
Externalizing Subscale	3		7
Internalizing Subscale	4		5



Interpreting a PSC: Jose's Story

Feelings Need Check Ups Tool

	Parent Version	Youth Version	Cutoff Score
Total Score	10	16	15
Attention Subscale	3	5	7
Externalizing Subscale	3	2	7
Internalizing Subscale	4	9	5



- Jose's Youth PSC had a positive Overall Score and a positive Internalizing Score.
- Jose's Parent PSC scores did not reach the cutoff in any category.

Now what?

Feelings Need Check Ups Tool

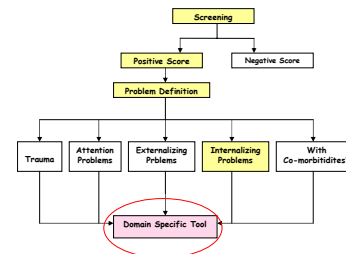


Jose: Doing poorly in school, irritable, disinterested, fighting, only wants to stay home with mother

- PSC Results (Youth version)
 - Overall PSC - Positive score
 - Internalizing Subscale - Positive score
 - ? Depression
- PSC Results (Parent version)
 - Did not screen in

Screening Algorithm

(Toolkit, p40)



Now what?

Feelings Need Check Ups Tool



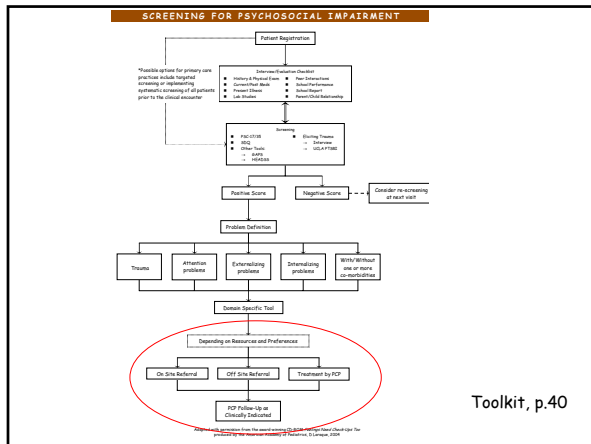
- Domain Specific Tool to clarify problem
 - Depression: PHQ-9, DISC (Toolkit, p20-30)

Interpreting a PSC: Jose's Story

Feelings Need Check Ups Tool

- Sharing results
 - Can be a fun experience for child and parent
 - Use the PSC as an objective judge - "it's not me, it's the test..."
 - Note: consider issues of confidentiality





- ## Next Steps in an Evaluation...
- Domain Specific Tools to clarify problem
 - These tools can be used to track a child's symptoms over time
 - Schedule follow-up visits
 - Consider Referral

References

1. *The American Heritage Stedman's Medical Dictionary*. 2004, Houghton Mifflin.
2. Jellinek M, M.J., Bishop SJ, and Pagano M, *Detailed Information, Pediatric Symptom Checklist*. 1998.