

APPENDIX 4

WEISS SYMPTOM RECORD

Purpose

To collect systematic information from the patient and other informants about various disorders, including learning, developmental and personality difficulties.

To serve as a cross check to assist clinicians in focusing their mental status, assuring that they do not miss relevant but unusual comorbidities, and in differentiating disorders which have significant symptom overlap.

This screener is not 'diagnostic'.

Unique Characteristics

Since this symptom record can be completed by any informant, it enables a rapid comparison of symptom profiles across settings.

Items scored as 'pretty much' or 'very much' are in shaded columns so that quick scanning of the screener enables rapid identification of problematic symptom groupings.

Items are translated into simple language for ease of use.

Not all items are included for every diagnosis to avoid redundancy in item content.

Item selection attempted to assure not only sensitivity to identification of comorbid disorders, but also selection of items that would assist in differentiating those symptoms that are specific to one disorder and assist in differentiating it from another overlapping problem.

The formulation of items on the Weiss Symptom Record was based on DSM-IV criteria.¹

Scoring

There is no scoring of items for this screener. Threshold requirements are indicated in the grey shaded column.

Psychometric Properties

Psychometric evaluation and validation of this measure is in progress.

Copyright Information

This screener is copyrighted by the University of British Columbia (2007) but is available free of charge as a simple clinical device for collecting essential information about symptom difficulties efficiently and over time.

¹*In the development of this screener DSM-IV diagnostic criteria were used with permission of the American Psychiatric Press.*