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# 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.**