

Weiss Symptom Record (WSR) Instructions

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
- 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

This is not a psychometrically validated instrument but a clinical record of the DSM-IV criteria for various disorders. The DSM-IV criteria for diagnosis for each disorder are listed in the column labelled 'Diagnosis'. Answers should be scored as follows: Not at all = 0, Somewhat = 1, Pretty Much = 2, Very Much = 3.

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