Pediatric Symptom Checklist – 35 Scoring and Interpretation

Each item on the 35 question screening tool is scored as follows:
0 point - Never (0)
1 point - Sometimes Present
2 points - Often Present

Scores are summed. The maximum score = 70

Interpretation:
Youth PSC: for children age 11 – 18 who complete the questionnaire?
Impairment suggested = Total Score 30 or higher
Impairment not suggested = Total score 29 or lower

Parent PSC: for children age 6 – 18 whose parents complete the questionnaire?
Impairment suggested = Total score 28 or higher
Impairment not suggested = Total score 27 or lower

Clusters of answers suggesting specific areas of concern:

Internalizing problems suggesting depression or anxiety:
• Feel sad, unhappy
• Worry a lot
• Feel hopeless
• Seem to be having less fun
• Down on yourself

Attention problems:
• Fidgety, unable to sit still
• Distract easily
• Act as if driven by motor
• Daydream too much
• Have trouble concentrating

Externalizing problems suggesting conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder:
• Fight with other children
• Tease others
• Do not listen to rules
• Refuse to share
• Do not understand other people’s feelings
• Take things that do not belong to you

Other items on the PSC are not categorized by cluster.

How to address items left blank:
If 1 – 3 items are left blank, each is scored 0.
If 4 or more items are left blank, the questionnaire is invalid.