Psychiatric Research Interview for Substance and Mental Disorders (PRISM)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**
The PRISM is a semi-structured clinician-administered interview that measures the major Axis I DSM-IV diagnoses (current and past) of alcohol, drug, and psychiatric disorders. The PRISM was designed to provide clear guidelines for differentiating between the expected effects of intoxication and withdrawal, substance-induced disorders, and primary disorders. The PRISM also covers two Axis II disorders, Borderline Personality Disorder and Antisocial Personality Disorder.

**TARGET POPULATION**
- Adults
- Adolescents

Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?
The instrument was designed to maximize reliability and validity in heavy drinkers and users of drugs.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**
Number of items: Too many to list
Number of subscales:
Format(s):
- Pencil-and-paper self-administered
  - Interview
- Observation
- Computer self-administered
- Other

Time required for administration: 1 to 3 hours
Administered by: Master’s level clinicians or others
Training required for administration? yes no

Comments: Training for the administrator involves a self-study manual, ratings of taped interviews, and small-group sessions (involving both didactic and role-playing material) with an experienced trainer.

**SCORING**
Time required to score/interpret: Immediate
Scored by: Hand or computer
Computerized scoring or interpretation available? yes no

Norms available? yes no
PSYCHOMETRICS

Have reliability studies been done? □ yes □ no

What measure(s) of reliability was used?
□ Test-retest (Interrater only)
□ Split half
□ Internal consistency

Have validity studies been done? □ yes □ no

What measures of validity have been derived?
□ Content
□ Criterion (predictive, concurrent, “postdictive”)
□ Construct

CLINICAL UTILITY OF INSTRUMENT

Although primarily designed as a research instrument, the PRISM provides systematic coverage of alcohol- and drug-related experiences and symptoms that may be useful in identifying areas of focus for treatment. Additionally, the unusually high reliability of the depression diagnoses in individuals with heavy drinking may provide a better basis for treatment decisions than less consistent methods for assessing major depression and dysthymia.

RESEARCH APPLICABILITY

Useful for studying the effects of comorbidity on the longitudinal course of alcoholism or alcoholism treatment outcome. Can also be used to differentiate subjects in order to study treatment-matching strategies when psychopathology is one of the matching variables.

SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Copyright: □ yes □ no

Cost: No cost to use instrument: training costs are determined by the amount of trainer time involved in each study.

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