

The Modified Overt Aggression Scale (MOAS)*

Patient _____

Date _____

INSTRUCTIONS

Rate the patient's aggressive behavior *over the past week*. Select as many items as are appropriate.

SCORING

1. Add items within each category.
2. In the scoring summary, multiply sum by weight and add all the weighted sums for total weighted score. Use this score to track changes in level of aggression over time.

Verbal Aggression: Verbal hostility, statements or invectives that seek to inflict psychological harm on another through devaluation/degradation, and threats of physical attack.

- ___ 0. No verbal aggression
- ___ 1. Shouts angrily, curses mildly, or makes personal insults
- ___ 2. Curses viciously, is severely insulting, has temper outbursts
- ___ 3. Impulsively threatens violence toward others or self
- ___ 4. Threatens violence toward others or self repeatedly or deliberately (e.g., to gain money or sex)

___ **SUM VERBAL AGGRESSION SCORE**

Aggression Against Property: Wanton and reckless destruction of ward paraphernalia or other's possessions.

- ___ 0. No aggression against property
- ___ 1. Slams door angrily, rips clothing, urinates on floor
- ___ 2. Throws objects down, kicks furniture, defaces walls
- ___ 3. Breaks objects, smashes windows
- ___ 4. Sets fires, throws objects dangerously

___ **SUM PROPERTY AGGRESSION SCORE**

Autoaggression: Physical injury toward oneself, self-mutilation, or suicide attempt.

- ___ 0. No autoaggression
- ___ 1. Picks or scratches skin, pulls hair out, hits self (without injury)
- ___ 2. Bangs head, hits fists into walls, throws self on floor
- ___ 3. Inflicts minor cuts, bruises, burns or welts on self
- ___ 4. Inflicts major injury on self or makes a suicide attempt

___ **SUM AUTOAGGRESSION SCORE**

Physical Aggression: Violent action intended to inflict pain, bodily harm, or death upon another.

- ___ 0. No physical aggression
- ___ 1. Makes menacing gestures, swings at people, grabs at clothing
- ___ 2. Strikes, pushes, scratches, pulls hair of others (without injury)
- ___ 3. Attacks others, causing mild injury (bruises, sprains, welts, etc.)
- ___ 4. Attacks others, causing serious injury (fracture, loss of teeth, deep cuts, loss of consciousness, etc.)

___ **SUM PHYSICAL AGGRESSION SCORE**

SCORING SUMMARY

Category	Sum Score	Weights	Weighted Sum
Verbal Aggression		X1	
Aggression Against Property		X2	
Autoaggression		X3	
Physical Aggression		X4	
Total Weighted Score			