

# Best Evidence Summaries of Topics in Mental Healthcare

**BEST in MH** *clinical question-answering service*

## Question

In adults referred to mental health services for assessment of their mental health needs, what is the most effective tool for accurately assessing risk of harm to self and/or others?

## Clarification of question using *PICO* structure

*Patients:* Adults referred to mental health services for assessment of their mental health needs  
*Intervention:* Tool(s) for assessing risk of harm to self and/or others  
*Comparator:* Other risk assessment tools  
*Outcome:* Accuracy of risk levels

## **Clinical and research implications**

No systematic reviews, meta-analyses or randomised controlled trials were found to answer this question.

## **What does the evidence say?**

### ***Number of included studies/reviews (number of participants)***

N/A

### ***Main findings***

N/A

### ***Authors conclusions***

N/A

### ***Reliability of conclusions/Strength of evidence***

N/A

## **What do guidelines say?**

No guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) or the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) guidelines comment upon the effectiveness of risk assessment tools for adults referred to mental health services for assessment of their mental health needs.

**Date question received:** 04/03/2015

**Date searches conducted:** 10/03/2015

**Date answer completed:** 11/03/2015

## Search details

Source	Search Strategy	Number of hits	Relevant evidence identified
<i>SRs and Guidelines</i>			
NICE	"Risk assessment" "Mental health"	0 4	0 0
DARE	1 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Eating Disorders EXPLODE ALL TREES 86 Delete 2 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Suicide, Attempted EXPLODE ALL TREES 38 Delete 3 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Self Mutilation EXPLODE ALL TREES 1 Delete 4 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Mood Disorders EXPLODE ALL TREES 1206 Delete 5 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Bipolar Disorder EXPLODE ALL TREES 178 Delete 6 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Neurotic Disorders EXPLODE ALL TREES 3 Delete 7 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Depressive Disorder EXPLODE ALL TREES 1023 Delete 8 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Dysthymic Disorder EXPLODE ALL TREES 11 Delete 9 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Depression EXPLODE ALL TREES 565 Delete 10 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Depressive Disorder, Major EXPLODE ALL TREES 327 Delete 11 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Depression, Postpartum EXPLODE ALL TREES 74 Delete 12 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Seasonal Affective Disorder EXPLODE ALL TREES 10 Delete 13 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Anxiety EXPLODE ALL TREES 266 Delete 14 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Anxiety Disorders EXPLODE ALL TREES 480 Delete 15 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Anxiety, Separation EXPLODE ALL TREES 0 Delete 16 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Dental Anxiety EXPLODE ALL TREES 5 Delete 17 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Panic EXPLODE ALL TREES 4 Delete 18 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Panic Disorder EXPLODE ALL TREES 51 Delete 19 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Phobic Disorders EXPLODE ALL TREES 43 Delete 20 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Phobic Disorders EXPLODE ALL TREES 43 Delete 21 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Stress Disorders, Post-Traumatic EXPLODE ALL TREES 135 Delete	63	0

	<p>22 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Somatoform Disorders EXPLODE ALL TREES 47 Delete</p> <p>23 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Hypochondriasis EXPLODE ALL TREES 4 Delete</p> <p>24 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Hysteria EXPLODE ALL TREES 1 Delete</p> <p>25 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Conversion Disorder EXPLODE ALL TREES 3 Delete</p> <p>26 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Munchausen Syndrome EXPLODE ALL TREES 0 Delete</p> <p>27 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy EXPLODE ALL TREES 0 Delete</p> <p>28 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Neurasthenia EXPLODE ALL TREES 0 Delete</p> <p>29 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Fatigue Syndrome, Chronic EXPLODE ALL TREES 46 Delete</p> <p>30 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder EXPLODE ALL TREES 57 Delete</p> <p>31 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Obsessive Behavior EXPLODE ALL TREES 0 Delete</p> <p>32 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Compulsive Behavior EXPLODE ALL TREES 22 Delete</p> <p>33 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Stress, Psychological EXPLODE ALL TREES 222 Delete</p> <p>34 ("Mental Disorders") IN DARE 500 Delete</p> <p>35 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Schizophrenia EXPLODE ALL TREES 525 Delete</p> <p>36 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Paranoid Disorders EXPLODE ALL TREES 0 Delete</p> <p>37 (schizo*) IN DARE 672 Delete</p> <p>38 (hebephreni*) IN DARE 0 Delete</p> <p>39 (oligophreni*) IN DARE 0 Delete</p> <p>40 (psychotic*) IN DARE 245 Delete</p> <p>41 (psychos?s) IN DARE 229 Delete</p> <p>42 (chronic* adj3 mental*) IN DARE 29 Delete</p> <p>43 (sever* adj3 mental*) IN DARE 90 Delete</p> <p>44 (mental* adj3 disorder*) IN DARE 533 Delete</p> <p>45 (mental* adj3 ill*) IN DARE 224 Delete</p> <p>46 (emotion* adj disorder*) IN DARE 20 Delete</p> <p>47 #1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12 OR #13 OR #14 OR #15 OR #16 OR #17 OR #18 OR #19 OR #20 OR #21 OR #22 OR #23 OR #24 OR #25 OR #26 OR #27 OR #28 OR #29 OR #30 OR #31 OR #32 OR #33 OR #34 OR #35 OR #36 OR #37 OR #38 OR #39 OR #40 OR #41 OR #42 OR #43 OR #44 OR #45 OR #46 3770 Delete</p>		
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	<p>48 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Risk Assessment IN DARE 1237 Delete</p> <p>49 (risk adj3 assess*) IN DARE 1754 Delete</p> <p>50 (risk adj3 measure*) IN DARE 51 Delete</p> <p>51 (risk adj3 metric*) IN DARE 0 Delete</p> <p>52 (harm adj3 assess*) IN DARE 12 Delete</p> <p>53 (suicid* adj3 assess*) IN DARE 7 Delete</p> <p>54 (injur* adj3 assess*) IN DARE 57 Delete</p> <p>55 #48 OR #49 OR #50 OR #51 OR #52 OR #53 OR #54 1858 Delete</p> <p>56 #47 AND #55 63 Delete</p>		
<b>RCTs</b>			
MEDLINE	<p>24. MEDLINE; "mental health assess*".ti,ab; 374 results.</p> <p>25. MEDLINE; INTAKE INTERVIEW/ OR HEALTH SERVICE NEEDS/ OR NEEDS ASSESSMENT/; 22888 results.</p> <p>26. MEDLINE; 24 OR 25; 23251 results.</p> <p>27. MEDLINE; RISK ASSESSMENT/; 181868 results.</p> <p>28. MEDLINE; MEASUREMENT/; 0 results.</p> <p>29. MEDLINE; TEST VALIDITY/; 0 results.</p> <p>30. MEDLINE; TEST RELIABILITY/; 0 results.</p> <p>31. MEDLINE; "risk assessment tool".ti,ab; 862 results.</p> <p>32. MEDLINE; 27 OR 28 OR 29 OR 30 OR 31; 182176 results.</p> <p>33. MEDLINE; 26 AND 32; 1085 results.</p> <p>34. MEDLINE; exp HOSPITAL ADMISSION/; 0 results.</p> <p>35. MEDLINE; HOSPITALIZATION/ OR PATIENT ADMISSION/; 91891 results.</p> <p>36. MEDLINE; "psychiatric hospital admission".ti,ab; 74 results.</p> <p>37. MEDLINE; "mental health hospital admission".ti,ab; 1 results.</p> <p>38. MEDLINE; "test reliability".ti,ab; 705 results.</p> <p>39. MEDLINE; "test validity".ti,ab; 307 results.</p> <p>40. MEDLINE; 26 OR 35 OR 36 OR 37; 114644 results.</p> <p>41. MEDLINE; 27 OR 31 OR 38 OR 39; 183165 results.</p> <p>42. MEDLINE; 40 AND 41; 4099 results.</p> <p>43. MEDLINE; "randomized controlled trial".pt; 387171 results.</p> <p>44. MEDLINE; "controlled clinical trial".pt; 88869 results.</p>	205	0

	<p>45. MEDLINE; randomized.ab; 311803 results.  46. MEDLINE; placebo.ab; 159037 results.  47. MEDLINE; "drug therapy".fs; 1745898 results.  48. MEDLINE; randomly.ab; 225521 results.  49. MEDLINE; trial.ab; 322211 results.  50. MEDLINE; groups.ab; 1423292 results.  51. MEDLINE; 43 OR 44 OR 45 OR 46 OR 47 OR 48 OR 49 OR 50; 3469387 results.  52. MEDLINE; 42 AND 51; 1109 results.  53. MEDLINE; ("mental health" OR "mental illness").ti,ab; 93621 results.  54. MEDLINE; 35 AND 53; 2940 results.  55. MEDLINE; 26 OR 36 OR 37 OR 54; 26210 results.  56. MEDLINE; 41 AND 51 AND 55; 217 results.  57. MEDLINE; 26 OR 36; 23325 results.  58. MEDLINE; 41 AND 51 AND 57; 205 results.</p>		
EMBASE	<p>11. EMBASE; "mental health assess*".ti,ab; 481 results.  12. EMBASE; INTAKE INTERVIEW/ OR HEALTH SERVICE NEEDS/ OR NEEDS ASSESSMENT/; 16935 results.  13. EMBASE; 11 OR 12; 17409 results.  14. EMBASE; RISK ASSESSMENT/; 350264 results.  15. EMBASE; MEASUREMENT/; 83667 results.  16. EMBASE; TEST VALIDITY/; 0 results.  17. EMBASE; TEST RELIABILITY/; 0 results.  18. EMBASE; "risk assessment tool".ti,ab; 1349 results.  19. EMBASE; 14 OR 15 OR 16 OR 17 OR 18; 432223 results.  20. EMBASE; 13 AND 19; 678 results.  21. EMBASE; random*.ti,ab; 941010 results.  22. EMBASE; factorial*.ti,ab; 24252 results.  23. EMBASE; (crossover* OR cross-over*).ti,ab; 71985 results.  24. EMBASE; placebo*.ti,ab; 208864 results.  25. EMBASE; (doubl* ADJ blind*).ti,ab; 147483 results.  26. EMBASE; (singl* ADJ blind*).ti,ab; 15301 results.</p>	249	0

	<p>27. EMBASE; assign*.ti,ab; 252102 results.</p> <p>28. EMBASE; allocat*.ti,ab; 89312 results.</p> <p>29. EMBASE; volunteer*.ti,ab; 183563 results.</p> <p>30. EMBASE; CROSSOVER PROCEDURE/; 41662 results.</p> <p>31. EMBASE; DOUBLE BLIND PROCEDURE/; 118058 results.</p> <p>32. EMBASE; RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL/; 361271 results.</p> <p>33. EMBASE; SINGLE BLIND PROCEDURE/; 19563 results.</p> <p>34. EMBASE; 21 OR 22 OR 23 OR 24 OR 25 OR 26 OR 27 OR 28 OR 29 OR 30 OR 31 OR 32 OR 33; 1490359 results.</p> <p>35. EMBASE; 20 AND 34; 53 results.</p> <p>36. EMBASE; exp MENTAL HEALTH CARE/; 105543 results.</p> <p>37. EMBASE; 13 OR 36; 121891 results.</p> <p>38. EMBASE; 19 AND 34 AND 37; 249 results.</p>		
PsycINFO	<p>1. PsycINFO; "mental health assess*".ti,ab; 581 results.</p> <p>2. PsycINFO; INTAKE INTERVIEW/ OR HEALTH SERVICE NEEDS/ OR NEEDS ASSESSMENT/; 7829 results.</p> <p>3. PsycINFO; 1 OR 2; 8392 results.</p> <p>4. PsycINFO; RISK ASSESSMENT/; 9752 results.</p> <p>5. PsycINFO; MEASUREMENT/; 41545 results.</p> <p>6. PsycINFO; TEST VALIDITY/; 56936 results.</p> <p>7. PsycINFO; TEST RELIABILITY/; 40151 results.</p> <p>8. PsycINFO; "risk assessment tool".ti,ab; 190 results.</p> <p>9. PsycINFO; 4 OR 5 OR 6 OR 7 OR 8; 109961 results.</p> <p>10. PsycINFO; 3 AND 9; 508 results.</p> <p>11. PsycINFO; CLINICAL TRIALS/; 8407 results.</p> <p>12. PsycINFO; random*.ti,ab; 138812 results.</p> <p>13. PsycINFO; groups.ti,ab; 384814 results.</p> <p>14. PsycINFO; (double adj3 blind).ti,ab; 18590 results.</p> <p>15. PsycINFO; (single adj3 blind).ti,ab; 1508 results.</p> <p>16. PsycINFO; EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN/; 9497 results.</p>	94	0

	17. PsycINFO; controlled.ti,ab; 85992 results. 18. PsycINFO; (clinical adj3 study).ti,ab; 8394 results. 19. PsycINFO; trial.ti,ab; 73086 results. 20. PsycINFO; "treatment outcome clinical trial".md; 29146 results. 21. PsycINFO; 11 OR 12 OR 13 OR 14 OR 15 OR 16 OR 17 OR 18 OR 19 OR 20; 597845 results. 22. PsycINFO; 10 AND 21; 86 results. 23. PsycINFO; exp HOSPITAL ADMISSION/; 4122 results. 24. PsycINFO; 3 OR 23; 12470 results. 25. PsycINFO; 9 AND 21 AND 24; 94 results.		
CENTRAL	#1 MeSH descriptor: [Mental Health Services] explode all trees 4604 #2 MeSH descriptor: [Needs Assessment] explode all trees 311 #3 MeSH descriptor: [Risk Assessment] explode all trees 7759 #4 "mental health assess*" 28 #5 "psychiatric hospital admission" 10 #6 #1 or #2 or #4 or #5 4918 #7 "risk assessment tool" 76 #8 "test reliability" or "test validity" 131 #9 #3 or #7 or #8 7935 #10 #6 and #9 112	112	0
<b>Summary</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	



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