

# Pediatric Symptom Checklist 17 Scoring

## Instructions for Scoring

The *Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17* (PSC-17) is a psychosocial screen designed to facilitate the recognition of cognitive, emotional, and behavioral problems so that appropriate interventions can be initiated as early as possible.

The PSC-17 consists of 17 items that are rated as “Never,” “Sometimes,” or “Often” present. A value of **0** is assigned to “Never”, **1** to “Sometimes,” and **2** to “Often”. The total score is calculated by adding together the score for each of the 17 items. Items that are left blank are simply ignored (i.e., score equals 0). If four or more items are left blank, the questionnaire is considered invalid.

A PSC-17 score of 15 or higher suggests the presence of significant behavioral or emotional problems.

To determine what kinds of mental health problems are present, determine the 3 factor scores on the PSC:

❑ **The PSC-17 Internalizing Subscale (Cutoff 5 or more items):**

- Feels sad, unhappy
- Feels hopeless
- Is down on self
- Worries a lot
- Seems to be having less fun

❑ **The PSC-17 Attention Subscale (Cutoff 7 or more items):**

- Fidgety, unable to sit still
- Daydreams too much
- Distracted easily
- Has trouble concentrating
- Acts as if driven by a motor

❑ **The PSC-17 Externalizing Subscale (Cutoff 7 or more items):**

- Fights with other children
- Does not listen to rules
- Does not understand other people's feelings
- Teases others
- Blames others for his/her troubles
- Refuses to share
- Takes things that do not belong to him/her