SELECTING SCREENING TOOLS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING AND REFERRAL IN PEDIATRIC TRAUMA PATIENTS

Created by: Center for Pediatric Traumatic Stress

How does our team know what screening tools to use to meet the ACS guidelines for pediatric trauma patients?

We believe that the following items are key:

Essential:

1. Screening tool performance has been evaluated with injured children in a medical setting
2. Evidence that screening tool detects concurrent psychological distress and/or predicts persistent, ongoing distress
3. Tool is feasible for use in ED or inpatient setting, i.e., time to administer, ease of scoring
4. Evidence-based scoring guidelines are provided — with meaning of positive screen described so that healthcare team can take appropriate action (e.g., monitor, assess further, refer for MH services)

Desirable:

5. Multiple studies provide evidence for prediction of concurrent or future / ongoing psychological distress
6. Evidence for prediction of broader spectrum of distress — e.g., PTS*, depression, anxiety, behavioral difficulties, impact on functioning
7. Demonstrated feasibility and utility based on real world use in multiple settings
8. Tool has been evaluated in, and has evidence for good performance with, injured patients similar to those you see in your setting (e.g., age, culture, language, injury types and severity)

See next page for quick summary of current status of several current screening tools.

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### Summary of current screening tools for mental health sequelae of pediatric injury

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screener content</th>
<th>ASC-Kids 1-3</th>
<th>CTSQ 4,5</th>
<th>CSDC- short form 6</th>
<th>PsySTART 7,8</th>
<th>STEPP 9-13</th>
<th>PDI-C 14,15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language(s)</strong></td>
<td>Eng, Span</td>
<td>Eng</td>
<td>Eng</td>
<td>Eng</td>
<td>Eng</td>
<td>Eng; Fr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong># of items</strong></td>
<td>3- or 6- item screener</td>
<td>10 items</td>
<td>4 items</td>
<td>9 items</td>
<td>12 items</td>
<td>13 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child ages</strong></td>
<td>8 - 17</td>
<td>6 - 16</td>
<td>5 - 17</td>
<td>7 - 17</td>
<td>8 - 17</td>
<td>8 - 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Source of information</strong></td>
<td>child</td>
<td>child</td>
<td>parent</td>
<td>staff, med record</td>
<td>child, parent, med record</td>
<td>child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who can administer</strong></td>
<td>any staff</td>
<td>any staff</td>
<td>any staff</td>
<td>any staff</td>
<td>any staff</td>
<td>any staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time to administer</strong></td>
<td>1 - 2 min</td>
<td>2 - 3 min</td>
<td>1 - 2 min</td>
<td>2 min</td>
<td>5 - 6 min</td>
<td>5-8 min</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### ESSENTIAL

| **1. Tool performance has been evaluated with injured children in a medical setting** | Yes | Yes | Not yet | Yes | Yes |
| **2. Evidence that tool detects concurrent psychological distress and/or predicts persistent, ongoing distress** | Yes | Yes | Yes | Initial positive findings not replicated | Yes |
| **3. Tool appears feasible for use in ED or inpatient setting** | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| **4. Evidence-based scoring guidelines available** | Yes | Yes | Yes | Initial findings not replicated | Yes |

#### DESIRABLE

| **5. Multiple studies provide evidence for screener performance** | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes |
| **6. Evidence for prediction of broader spectrum of distress** | -- | -- | -- | Yes | No | Developing for pediatric population |
| **7. Demonstrated feasibility and utility** | Developing | Developing | Developing | Developing | Feasible | Developing |
| **8. Evidence for good performance with injured patients similar to those you see in your setting (e.g., age, culture, language, injury types and severity)** | Evaluate for your setting | Evaluate for your setting | Evaluate for your setting | Evaluate for your setting | Evaluate for your setting | Evaluate for your setting |

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*PTS= post-traumatic stress; **HR= heart rate

Find more information at [https://www.healthcaretoolbox.org/screening-after-pediatric-injury](https://www.healthcaretoolbox.org/screening-after-pediatric-injury)
References


