

Special Indicators for Children & Adolescents Posttraumatic Stress Disorder – Code 309.81

Name:

DOB:

ID#

NOTE: Please see the PTSD Diagnostic Tool for APA DSM diagnostic criteria, as this diagnostic tool is meant to provide additional indicators specific to children and adolescents pertaining to the PTSD diagnosis.

APA Diagnostic Criteria

Pertaining to Part B of the DSM PTSD criteria, "The traumatic event is persistently re-experienced in one (or more) of the following ways," these elements may also exist in children:

- (1) In young children, repetitive play may occur in which themes or aspects of the trauma are expressed.
- (2) In children, there may be frightening dreams without recognizable content.
- (3) In young children, trauma-specific reenactment may occur.

Age Specific Indicators

Age 5 years and younger:

- (1) Fear of being separated from the parent – crying, whimpering, screaming, immobility and/or aimless motion, trembling, frightened facial expressions and excessive clinging.
- (2) Parents may also notice children returning to behaviors exhibited at earlier ages such as thumb-sucking, bedwetting, and fear of darkness
- (3) Worries about re-occurrence of the violence or traumatic event.
- (4) Children in this age bracket tend to be strongly affected by the parent(s) reactions to the traumatic event.

Children 6 to 11 years of age:

- (1) May show extreme withdrawal, disruptive behavior, and/or inability to pay attention.
- (2) Nightmares, sleep problems, irrational fears, irritability, refusal to attend school, changes in eating habits, outbursts of anger, fighting, and/or repetitive thoughts of death and dying.
- (3) Complaints of stomachaches or other bodily symptoms that have not medical basis.
- (4) School work often declines.
- (5) Symptoms of depression and/or anxiety, as well as feelings of guilt, flat affect, and emotional numbing resulting in lack of interest in once enjoyed activities.
- (6) Increased sensitivity to sounds, such as sirens, planes, thunder, backfires, and other loud noises.

Adolescents 12-17 years of age:

- (1) May exhibit responses similar to those of adults, including flashbacks, nightmares, emotional numbing, and avoidance of any reminder of the traumatic event.
- (2) Symptoms of depress and/or substance abuse.
- (3) Problems with peers and anti-social behaviors; hate and anger statements.
- (4) Withdrawal and isolation, physical complaints, suicidal thoughts, school avoidance, academic decline, sleep disturbances, and confusion.
- (5) May feel extreme guilt over his/her failure to prevent injury or loss of life.
- (6) May harbor revenge fantasies that interfere with recovery from the trauma.

American Psychiatric Association (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders text revised: DSM-1V-TR* (4th ed.). Washington D.C.: Author

American Psychiatric Association (n.d.). *Reactions and guidelines for children following trauma/disaster*. Retrieved on April 23, 2004 from the APA HelpCenter Website: <http://helping.apa.org>

National Institute of Mental Health (2001). *Helping children and adolescents cope with violence and disasters*. Retrieved on April 23, 2004 from the NIMH Website: <http://nimh.nih.gov/publicat>

Standardized Child & Adolescent PTSD Assessment Instruments

Childhood PTSD Interview (CPTSDI)

Contact: Kenneth E. Fletcher, Ph.D., Department of Psychiatry
University of Massachusetts Medical Center
55 Lake avenue North
Worcester, MA 01655

The Children's PTSD Inventory

Contact: Customer Care
The Psychological Corporation
19500 Bulverde Road
San Antonio TX 78259-3701
1-800-872-1726
www.PsychCorp.com

Clinician-Administered PTSD Scale for Children & Adolescent for DSM-IV (CAPS-CA)

Contact: National Center for PTSD
VA Medical Center
215 N. Main St
White River Junction, Vermont 05009
ncptsd@ncptsd.org

Dimensions of Stressful Events Rating Scale (DOSE)

Contact: Kenneth E. Fletcher, Ph.D., Department of Psychiatry
University of Massachusetts Medical Center
55 Lake avenue North
Worcester, MA 01655

Trauma Symptom Checklist For Children (TSCC)

Contact: Psychological Assessment Resources
Box 998
Odessa, FL 33556
1-800-331-8378

Traumatic Events Screening Inventory – Child Version (TESI-C)

Contact: National Center for PTSD
VA Medical Center
215 N. Main St
White River Junction, Vermont 05009
ncptsd@ncptsd.org

When Bad Things Happen Scale (WBTH)

Contact: Kenneth E. Fletcher, Ph.D., Department of Psychiatry
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55 Lake avenue North
Worcester, MA 01655

National Center for PTSD (n.d.). *Child measures*. Retrieved on April 23, 2004 from <http://www.ncptsd.org/publications>

Clinician:
Date:
Signature: