

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Adult System of Care
MHSA Implementation & Outcomes
Division
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Purpose

- The PCL-C is a 17-item measure developed to assess the level of stress and number of symptoms and in the past month in response to a stressful event

Administration

- Adults (18+) can complete the measure
- Administration, on average, takes 5-10 minutes
- Administration and scoring of the PCL-C is straight-forward and can be accomplished by technicians or other personnel who have been trained in the administration of psychological tests to individuals and groups
- For each item, the respondent indicates how much they have been bothered by the problem in the last month



Revised: December 28, 2016

PCL-C Quick Guide

PTSD Checklist - Civilian (PCL-C)

Completed by clients (age 18+) in the Mental Health Integration Program (MHIP)

Availability

The PCL-C is made available by the US Veterans' Administration. To obtain it, complete and submit a request form. The form is available online at: www.ptsd.gov/professional

| Individual Item Scores | |
|------------------------|---|
| Not at all | 1 |
| A little bit | 2 |
| Moderately | 3 |
| Quite a bit | 4 |
| Extreme | 5 |

Scoring and Interpretation

TOTAL SCORE METHOD:

- **Only** the total score is entered into MHIP OMA and the score can be used for clinical interpretation
- Add all item scores for a severity score that can range from 17-85
- A score of 44+ suggests high likelihood that the client would meet diagnostic criteria for PTSD

DSM-IV CRITERIA METHOD:

- DSM-IV Criteria scores are **not** entered into MHIP OMA but can be used with the Total Score Method for clinical interpretation
- Using DSM-IV diagnostic criteria, clients would likely be diagnosed with PTSD, if all of the following is true:
 - At least one item from items 1-5 is scored 3 or higher
 - At least three items from items 6-12 are scored 3 or higher
 - At least two items from items 13-17 are scored 3 or higher