

MGAF - Modified Global Assessment of Functioning Scale

Instructions:

- Use scale to assess the severity of impairment in psychological, social and family, vocational, educational, self-care and independent living on a continuum of wellness / illness.
- To be completed at intake/admission, at every three month review, and/ or whenever a significant change in functioning occurs and at discharge/transition.

90 Absent or Minimal Symptoms
 | *Criteria:* Minimal or absent symptoms (e.g., mild anxiety before an examination)
 | Good functioning in all areas and satisfied with life
 | Interested and involved in a wide range of activities
 | Socially effective
 | No more than everyday problems or concerns (e.g., an occasional argument with family members)
 | *Scoring:* 88-90 No symptoms or everyday problems
 | 84-87 Minimal symptoms or everyday problems
81 81-83 Minimal symptoms and everyday problems

80 Some Transient Mild Symptoms
 | *Criteria:* Mild symptoms are present, but they are transient and expectable reactions to psychosocial stressors (e.g., difficulty concentrating after family argument).
 | Slight impairment in social, work, or school functioning (e.g., temporarily falling behind in school or work).
 | *Scoring:* 78-80 EITHER mild symptom(s) OR mild impairment in social, work or school functioning
 | 74-77 Mild impairment in more than one area of social, work or school functioning
71 71-73 BOTH mild symptoms AND slight impairment in social, work & school functioning

70 Some Persistent Mild Symptoms
 | *Criteria:* Mild symptoms are present that are NOT just expectable reactions to psychosocial stressors (e.g., mild or lessened depression and/or mild insomnia)
 | Some persistent difficulty in social, work or school functioning (e.g., occasional truancy, theft within the family, or repeated falling behind in school or work)
 | But has some meaningful interpersonal relationships
 | *Scoring:* 68-70 EITHER mild persistent symptoms OR mild difficulty in social, work, or school functioning
 | 64-67 Mild persistent difficulty in more than one area of social, work or school functioning
61 61-63 BOTH mild persistent symptoms AND some difficulty in social, work, and school functioning

60 Moderate Symptoms
 | *Criteria:* Moderate symptoms (e.g., frequent, moderate depressed mood and insomnia and/or moderate ruminating and obsessing; or occasional anxiety attacks; or flat affect and circumstantial speech; or eating problems and below minimum safe weight without depression).
 | Moderate difficulty in social, work, or school functioning (e.g., few friends, or conflicts with co-workers)
 | *Scoring:* 58-60 EITHER moderate symptoms OR moderate difficulty in social, work, or school functioning
 | 54-57 Moderate difficulty in more than 1 area of social, work or school functioning
51 51-53 BOTH moderate symptoms AND moderate difficulty in social, work and school functioning

50 Some Serious Symptoms or Impairment in Functioning
 | *Criteria:* Serious impairment with work, school or housework if a housewife or house husband (e.g., unable to keep job or stay in school, or failing school, or unable to care for family and house)
 | Frequent problems with the law (e.g., frequent shoplifting, arrests) or occasional combative behavior
 | Serious impairment in relationships with friends (e.g., very few or no friends, or avoids current friends)
 | Serious impairment in judgment (incl. inability to make decisions, confusion, disorientation)
 | Serious impairment in thinking (incl. constant preoccupation w/ thoughts, distorted body image, paranoia)
 | Serious impairment in mood (incl. constant depressed mood plus helplessness and hopelessness, or agitation, or manic mood)
 | Serious impairment due to anxiety (panic attacks, overwhelming anxiety)
 | Other symptoms: some hallucinations, delusions, or severe obsessional rituals
 | Passive suicidal ideation
 | *Scoring:* 48-50 1 area of disturbance
 | 44-47 2 areas of disturbance
41 41-43 3 areas of disturbance

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Major Impairment in Several Areas of Functioning

Criteria: Serious impairment with work, school or housework if a housewife or house husband (e.g., unable to keep job or stay in school, or failing school, or unable to care for family and house)
Frequent problems with the law (e.g., frequent shoplifting, arrests) or occasional combative behavior
Serious impairment in relationships with friends (e.g., very few or no friends, or avoids current friends)
Serious impairment in judgment (incl. inability to make decisions, confusion, disorientation)
Serious impairment in thinking (incl. constant preoccupation w/ thoughts, distorted body image, paranoia)
Serious impairment in mood (incl. constant depressed mood plus helplessness and hopelessness, or agitation, or manic mood)
Serious impairment due to anxiety (panic attacks, overwhelming anxiety)
Other symptoms: some hallucinations, delusions, or severe obsessional rituals
Passive suicidal ideation

Scoring: 38-40 4 areas of disturbance
34-37 5 areas of disturbance
31-33 6 areas of disturbance

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Inability to Function in Almost All Areas

Criteria: Suicidal Preoccupation or frank suicidal ideation with preparation
(Unique OR behavior considerably influenced by delusions or hallucinations items)
OR serious impairment in communication (sometimes incoherent, acts grossly inappropriately, or profound stuporous depression)

OR (Com- Serious impairment with work, school or housework if a housewife or househusband (e.g., unable to
bined keep job or stay in school, or failing school, or unable to care for family and house)
items) Frequent problems with the law (e.g., frequent shoplifting, arrests) or occasional combative behavior
Serious impairment in relationships with friends (e.g., very few or no friends, or avoids current friends)
Serious impairment in judgment (incl. inability to make decisions, confusion, disorientation)
Serious impairment in thinking (incl. constant preoccupation w/ thoughts, distorted body image, paranoia)
Serious impairment in mood (incl. constant depressed mood plus helplessness and hopelessness, or
agitation, or manic mood)
Serious impairment due to anxiety (panic attacks, overwhelming anxiety)
Other symptoms: some hallucinations, delusions, or severe obsessional rituals
Passive suicidal ideation

Scoring: 21 1 of the first 3 (unique) criteria OR
28-30 7 of the Combined criteria
24-27 8-9 of the Combined criteria
20-23 10 of the Combined criteria

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In Some Danger of Hurting Self or Others

Criteria: Suicide attempts w/out clear expectation of death (e.g., mild overdose or scratching wrists with people around)
Some severe violence or self-mutilating behaviors
Severe manic excitement, or severe agitation and impulsivity
Occasionally fails to maintain minimum personal hygiene (e.g., diarrhea due to laxatives, or smearing feces)
Urgent / emergency admission to psychiatric hospital
In physical danger due to medical problems (e.g., severe anorexia or bulimia and some spontaneous vomiting or extensive laxative / diuretic / diet pill use, but without serious heart or kidney problems or severe dehydration and disorientation)

Scoring: 18-20 1-2 of the 6 areas of disturbance in this category
14-17 3-4 of the 6 areas of disturbance in this category
11-13 5-6 of the 6 areas of disturbance in this category

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In Persistent Danger of Severely Hurting Self or Others

Criteria: Serious suicidal act with clear expectation of death (e.g., stabbing, shooting, hanging, or serious overdose with no one present)
Frequent severe violence or self-mutilation
Extreme manic excitement, or extreme agitation and impulsivity (e.g., wild screaming, and ripping the stuffing out of a bed mattress)
Persistent inability to maintain minimal personal hygiene
Urgent / emergency admission to psychiatric hospital
In acute, severe danger due to medical problems (e.g., severe anorexia / bulimia with heart or kidney problems, or spontaneous vomiting WHENEVER food is ingested, or severe depression with out-of-control diabetes)

Scoring: 8-10 1-2 of the 6 areas of disturbance in this category
4-7 3-4 of the 6 areas of disturbance in this category
1-3 5-6 of the 6 areas of disturbance in this category

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