The University of Minnesota Press and NCS Assessments Announce Revisions to the MMPI-2 Test Materials and Reports

The MMPI-2 instrument remains the most widely used and widely researched test of adult psychopathology. Since the test was launched in 1989, several new scales have been researched and developed that heightened the need for revised MMPI-2 test materials and reports. The University of Minnesota and NCS Assessments are pleased to offer revised MMPI-2 test materials and reports that incorporate the most current research.

**Five Scales Added to the Validity and Clinical Scales Profile**

The addition of five scales (VRIN, TRIN, F, Fp, S) to the validity and clinical scales profile (formerly the basic scales) will enable test users to refine their evaluation of profile interpretability. The reordering of the validity scales reflects the recommended sequence for developing an interpretation of the scales: measures of inconsistent responding (VRIN, TRIN); measures of infrequent responding (F, Fb, Fp); and measures of defensive responding (L, K, S). You will notice these revisions in the hand-scoring materials for the validity and clinical scales as well as in all MMPI-2 test reports (except the Basic Service Report) available through MICROTEST Q™ Assessment System software and Mail-In Scoring service.
**Validity and Clinical Scales Profile**

The VRIN and TRIN Scales (Variable Response and True Response Inconsistency)

Introduced as supplementary scales when the MMPI-2™ test was published in 1989, the VRIN and TRIN scales have been moved to the validity and clinical scales profile. These validity scales have proved useful in detecting inconsistent responding of either a variable (for example, random) or biased (yea-saying or nay-saying) nature.

The F<sub>B</sub> Scale (Back F)

Introduced as an MMPI-2 supplementary scale, the F<sub>B</sub> scale captures infrequent responding to the latter portion of the MMPI-2 booklet, assisting in the identification of changes in the respondent’s approach to the MMPI-2 test that occur over the course of the test administration.

**Introducing the New PSY-5 Scales**

Harkness and McNulty developed a model for assessing psychopathology based on the “Big Five” model of personality. They selected items from the MMPI-2 item pool that matched their model and developed five scales: Aggressiveness (AGGR), Psychoticism (PSYC), Disconstraint (DISC), Negative Emotionality/Neuroticism (NEGE), and Introversion/Low Positive Emotionality (INTR). An extended description of these constructs, the scale development process, psychometric properties, validity evidence, and guidelines for interpretation is given in Harkness, McNulty, Ben-Porath, and Graham (2002). The Personality Psychopathology Five (PSY-5) scales are being introduced in the hand-scoring materials for the supplementary scales as well as the MMPI-2 Extended Score Report and all Minnesota Reports available through MICROTEST Q™ Assessment System software and Mail-In Scoring service.

**Aggressiveness (AGGR)**

PSY-5 Aggressiveness focuses on offensive and instrumental aggression. Persons high on PSY-5 Aggressiveness may enjoy intimidating others and may use aggression as a tool to accomplish goals. PSY-5 Aggressiveness does not emphasize defensive or reactive aggression. Interpersonally, high PSY-5 Aggressiveness is linked with dominance and hate.

**The F<sub>p</sub> Scale (Infrequency-Psychopathology)**

The F<sub>p</sub> scale was developed by Arbisi and Ben-Porath to assist in differentiating elevations on the F scale that are the product of genuine psychopathology from those that result from over-reporting, after random and fixed responding have been ruled out based on the VRIN and TRIN scales.

**The S Scale (Superlative Self-Presentation)**

The S scale was developed by Butcher and Han to assess defensiveness. The S scale has 5 subscales based on item content that point to possible reasons for defensive attitudes: S<sub>1</sub> Beliefs in Human Goodness; S<sub>2</sub> Serenity; S<sub>3</sub> Contentment with Life; S<sub>4</sub> Patience/ Denial of Irritability; and S<sub>5</sub> Denial of Moral Flaws.

**Psychoticism (PSYC)**

PSY-5 Psychoticism assesses disconnection from reality. Unshared beliefs, as well as unusual sensory and perceptual experiences, are examples of disconnection. Alienated and unrealistic expectation of harm is also assessed. Persons with high Psychoticism scores tend to have a higher probability of delusions of reference, thinking that is disorganized, bizarre, disoriented, circumstantial, or tangential. PSY-5 Psychoticism is a phenotype, not linked to any specific etiology. It is important to distinguish these PSY-5 Psychoticism concepts from the use of the term by Hans Eysenck, whose concept was linked more to criminality and antisocial behavior.
**Disconstraint (DISC)**

Persons with high scores on PSY-5 Disconstraint tend to be more risk taking, impulsive, and less traditional. They have a slight tendency to prefer romantic partners who have the same features. They tend to be easily bored with routine. Tellegen’s (1982) Constraint concept was the antecedent to identifying PSY-5 Disconstraint in the structure of normal personality and personality psychopathology markers (Harkness & McNulty, 1994). This pattern of behavioral disinhibition has been further described by Watson and Clark (1993). Although Zuckerman’s (1994) Sensation Seeking Scale bears a different label and research tradition, empirical correlations suggest significant overlap in personality individual differences tapped by measures of disconstraint and sensation seeking (McNulty, Harkness, & Ben-Porath, 1998).

**Negative Emotionality/Neuroticism (NEGE)**

Common features of elevated Negative Emotionality/Neuroticism are focusing on problematic aspects of incoming information, worrying, being self-critical, feeling guilty, and concocting worst-case scenarios. The personality disposition to experience negative affects and emotions was articulated by Tellegen (1982) and further described in Watson and Clark’s (1984) landmark review.

**Introversion/Low Positive Emotionality (INTR)**

Patients with PSY-5 Introversion/Low Positive Emotionality experience little joy or positive engagement. Although linked with the corresponding social dimension of Introversion versus Extroversion, Tellegen (1982, 1985) and Watson and Clark (1997) argued persuasively that the core of the individual differences dimension is the affective disposition. The scale name emphasizes the link between these two dimensions.

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**Revisions to the Supplementary Scales Profile**

Several revisions have been made to the Supplementary Scales profile. The following changes appear in the MMPI-2™ hand-scoring materials as well as in all MMPI-2 test reports (except the Basic Service Report) available through MICROTEST Q™ Assessment System software and Mail-In Scoring service.

- Addition of the MMPI-2 version of the Cook/Medley Ho (Hostility) scale
- Deletion of the Schlenenger and Kulka post-traumatic stress scale (PS); the PS scale is no longer offered
- Deletion of the Si (Social Introversion) subscales. In the hand-scoring materials, the Si subscales and Harris-Lingoes subscales are packaged together as the Clinical Subscales. The Si subscales remain a part of the test reports; however, subscale scores are reported, not profiled in test reports.
- Transfer of Validity indicators FB, VRIN, and TRIN to the Validity and Clinical scales profile
- The Supplementary scales have been reordered to enhance interpretation:
  - A, R, Es, Do, Re (scales representing or related to familiar normal-range personality constructs);
  - Mt, PK, MDS (indicators of generalized emotional distress with a clinical emphasis);
  - Ho, O-H, MAC-R, AAS, APS (indicators of behavioral dyscontrol, the last three focusing on substance abuse); and
  - GM, GF (gender-role scales).

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**MMPI-2 Supplementary Scales Profile**

[Graph showing MMPI-2 SUPPLEMENTARY SCALES PROFILE]

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**REVISED MMPI-2 Manual for Administration, Scoring, and Interpretation**

The MMPI-2 test manual has been revised to provide information on the revisions and new scales, as well as expanded guidelines for interpretation based on current research. Call now to order your MMPI-2 Manual for Administration, Scoring, and Interpretation Revised Edition—a must-have for all users!


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**Additional Information on the Revisions**

If you would like additional information on the revisions to the MMPI-2™ test materials and reports, please visit the NCS Assessments website at:

http://assessments.ncspearson.com

Or call our Client Relations department at:

800-627-7271, extension 5225

Please see the insert for ordering and pricing information for the revised MMPI-2 test materials and reports.

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**Additional Information on Research**

For information on possible research opportunities with the new MMPI-2 scales, please contact the University of Minnesota Press at:

Elizabeth Knoll Stomberg
University of Minnesota, Test Division
111 Third Avenue South, Suite 290
Minneapolis, MN  55401-2520
Phone: (612) 627-1964
Fax: (612) 627-1980
Email: stomb002@tc.umn.edu