Personal Experience Screening Questionnaire (PESQ)

System of Care Evaluation (SOCE)
Child and Adolescent Services Research Center (CASRC)
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Overview

- County Requirements
- Purpose of the PESQ
- PESQ Measure
- Scoring
- Interpretation
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- Data Entry System (DES)
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County Requirement

- At-risk clients opened to the FSP AD subunit will require the completion of the:
  - PESQ Cover Sheet

- Using clients opened to the FSP AD subunit will require the completion of the:
  - PESQ Cover Sheet
  - PESQ Measure

Programs are to collect, score and retain measures in the clients medical record
Purpose of the PESQ

- Screen adolescents for substance abuse
- Help service providers make appropriate referrals
- Track outcomes over time (i.e., substance abuse severity)
- Gather detailed substance use information (e.g., frequency, type, and severity of use)
- Identify treatment goals (e.g., reduce daily use of cigarettes, reduce substance abuse severity)
PESQ Measure

- FSP AD subunit(s) ONLY
- “Using” - Client is currently using substances or has history of substance use
- Ages 12-18 only
- Administered at Intake & Discharge
- Self-report measure
- 10 minutes to complete
- Measure based on their experiences in the last month (Except Part III)

*Note*: Forms are available in English & Spanish
Scoring

- Prior to scoring, review the form for any unanswered questions.
  - More than 2 unanswered questions may affect one or all scales and will not produce a score.

- Review the form for critical items
  - 30. I think about killing myself
  - 33. Someone in my family hits me when they are angry
  - 34. I am afraid of someone because they have been sexual with me.
Score each of the following sections:

- **Part I: Problem Severity and Infrequency**
  - Add each section: 1, 2 & 3 (refer to Steps 1-5)
  - *Do not* add the gray rows, those are added separately
Scoring (cont.)

- **Part II: Defensiveness and Psychosocial Indicators**
  - Add items 22, 24, 26, 29 and 31 (refer to Step 6)
  - *Only* add the numbers from each column

- **Part III: Summary of Drug Use**
  - Summarizes history of admitted drug experience

- **PESQ Response Distortion & Problem Severity**
  - Infrequency
  - Defensiveness
  - Problem Severity
Interpretation

- **Infrequency (INF):** *(Step 7)*
  - Red Flag - Client may be “faking bad” or faking the severity of their substance use (perhaps for attention)

- **Defensiveness (DEF):** *(Step 8)*
  - Red Flag - Client may be “faking good” or minimizing their substance use

- **Problem Severity (PS):** *(Step 9)*
  - Use this scale to see if substance use severity goes down from intake to discharge
  - Red Flag - Indicates potential need for substance abuse treatment

*If Infrequency or Defensiveness scales are a “red flag” then interpret the substance use severity scale with caution.*
AD Discharge Supplemental Questionnaire

- Administered to:
  - youth 12 and over @ Discharge only
  - Client’s Status: At-Risk & Users

*Note: Forms are available in English & Spanish*
Data Entry System (DES)

- Add AD Counselor information *(Name & Staff ID)*

**Entering Data:**
- Client must be active in the database
- AD Counselor will submit the necessary forms to the data entry person
- Data entry person will enter the data and print a summary report

**PESQ Reports:**
- PESQ Missing Data Report
- PESQ Outcomes Report *(split by At-Risk & Users)*
Requesting PESQ Forms

- E-mail: soce@casrc.org
- Phone: (858) 966-7703 ext. 3604

**Note:** English PESQ forms cannot be photocopied, so please give SOCE at least 24-48 hours to fill your request.
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Website: https://psychiatry.ucsd.edu/research/casrc/resources/SOCE/Pages/Data-Entry-System.aspx
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