

Memorial Symptom Assessment Scale Subscales

The scoring of the MSAS yields several validated subscale scores.

A 10 item MSAS **Global Distress Index** (MSAS-GDI) is considered to be a measure of overall symptom distress. The GDI is the average of the frequency of 4 prevalent psychological symptoms (feeling sad, worrying, feeling irritable, and feeling nervous) and the distress associated with 6 prevalent physical symptoms (lack of appetite, lack of energy, pain, feeling drowsy, constipation, dry mouth).

The **Physical Symptom Subscale** score (MSAS-PHYS) is the average of the frequency, severity and distress associated with 12 prevalent physical symptoms: lack of appetite, lack of energy, pain, feeling drowsy, constipation, dry mouth, nausea, vomiting, change in taste, weight loss, feeling bloated, and dizziness.

The **Psychological Symptom Subscale** score (MSAS-PSYCH) is the average of the frequency, severity and distress associated with 6 prevalent psychological symptoms: worrying, feeling sad, feeling nervous, difficulty sleeping, feeling irritable, and difficulty concentrating.

The **Total MSAS score** (TMSAS) is the average of the symptom scores of all 32 symptoms in the MSAS instrument. Each symptom score is an average of its dimensions.

In the short form, there is only one dimension for each symptom, distress for physical symptoms and frequency for psychological symptoms.

Memorial Symptom Assessment Scale Short Form Subscales

The scoring of the MSAS-SF yields several validated subscale scores. A 10 item MSAS **Global Distress Index** (MSAS-GDI) is considered to be a measure of overall symptom distress. The **GDI** is the average of the frequency of 4 prevalent psychological symptoms (feeling sad, worrying, feeling irritable, and feeling nervous) and the distress associated with 6 prevalent physical symptoms (lack of appetite, lack of energy, pain, feeling drowsy, constipation, dry mouth).

The **Physical Symptom Subscale** score (MSAS-PHYS) is the average of the distress associated with 12 prevalent physical symptoms: lack of appetite, lack of energy, pain, feeling drowsy, constipation, dry mouth, nausea, vomiting, change in taste, weight loss, feeling bloated, and dizziness. Note that the scaling is in increments of 0.8, with zero for no symptom, 0.8 for symptom present but no distress, and upwards for increasing levels of distress.

The **Psychological Symptom Subscale** score (MSAS-PSYCH) is the average of the frequency associated with 6 prevalent psychological symptoms: worrying, feeling sad, feeling nervous, difficulty sleeping, feeling irritable, and difficulty concentrating. Scoring is in increments of one, with zero for no symptom to 4 for “almost constantly”.

The **Total MSAS score** (TMSAS) is the average of the symptom scores of all 32 symptoms in the MSAS instrument.

In the short form, there is only one dimension for each symptom, distress for physical symptoms and frequency for psychological symptoms. The sequence of symptoms in the short form is different from that in the long form.

Scoring of physical symptoms in the MSAS-SF is as follows:

Zero if the symptom is not present

0.8 if the symptom is present but causes no distress

1.6 if the symptom is present and causes a little bit of distress

2.4 if the symptom is present and causes somewhat of distress

3.2 if the symptom is present and causes quite a bit of distress

4.0 if the symptom is present and causes very much distress.

Scoring of psychological symptoms is:

0 if the symptom is absent

1 if the symptom is present and occurs rarely

2 if the symptom is present and occurs occasionally

3 if the symptom is present and occurs frequently

4 if the symptom is present and occurs almost constantly.