

This is a **Sample** version of the  
**Memorial Delirium Assessment  
Scale (MDAS)**

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The full complete version includes –

- Overview
- Scoring Guide
- 10 item criteria Assessment/ Test

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# Memorial Delirium Assessment Scale (MDAS) ©1996

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## Overview

**Description:** The Memorial Delirium Assessment Scale (MDAS) was designed with the intent that the instrument could be administered repeatedly within the same day, to allow for objective measurement of changes in delirium severity in response to medical changes or clinical interventions (Breitbart, 1997). Scale items assess disturbances in arousal and level of consciousness, as well as several areas of cognitive functioning (memory, attention, orientation, disturbances in thinking) and psychomotor activity.

**Scoring/Interpretation:** The MDAS is a ten-item, four-point (0-3) clinician-rated scale (possible range, 0-30) designed to quantify the severity of delirium in medically ill patients. Items included in the MDAS reflect the diagnostic criteria for delirium in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-Four (DSM IV), as well as symptoms of delirium earlier or alternative classification systems (for example, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-Three (DSM III), DSM III-Revised, The International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision (ICD-9) (Breitbart, 1997).

**Time to Administer:** Approximately 10 minutes to administer

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### TEST

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**INSTRUCTIONS:** Rate the severity of the following symptoms of delirium based on current interaction with subject or assessment of his/her behavior or experience over past several hours (as indicated in each item.)

**ITEM 1-REDUCED LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS (AWARENESS):** Rate the patient's current awareness of and interaction with the environment (interviewer, other people/objects in the room; for example, ask patients to describe their surroundings).

- 0: none (patient spontaneously fully aware of environment and interacts appropriately)
- 1: mild (patient is unaware of some elements in the environment, or not spontaneously interacting appropriately with the interviewer; becomes fully aware and appropriately interactive when prodded strongly; interview is prolonged but not seriously disrupted)
- 2: moderate (patient is unaware of some or all elements in the environment, or not spontaneously interacting with the interviewer; becomes incompletely aware and inappropriately interactive when prodded strongly; interview is prolonged but not seriously disrupted)
- 3: severe (patient is unaware of all elements in the environment with no spontaneous interaction or awareness of the interviewer, so that the interview is difficult-to-impossible, even with maximal prodding)