

# Primary Care PTSD Screen (PC-PTSD)

Prins, Ouimette, Kimerling et al., 2003

## Description

The PC-PTSD is a 4-item screen that was designed for use in primary care and other medical settings and is currently used to screen for PTSD in veterans at the VA. The screen includes an introductory sentence to cue respondents to traumatic events. The authors suggest that in most circumstances the results of the PC-PTSD should be considered "positive" if a patient answers "yes" to any 3 items. Those screening positive should then be assessed with a structured interview for PTSD. The screen does not include a list of potentially traumatic events.

## Scale

### Instructions

In your life, have you ever had any experience that was so frightening, horrible, or upsetting that, in the past month, you:

1. Have had nightmares about it or thought about it when you did not want to?

YES / NO

2. Tried hard not to think about it or went out of your way to avoid situations that reminded you of it?

YES / NO

3. Were constantly on guard, watchful, or easily startled?

YES / NO

4. Felt numb or detached from others, activities, or your surroundings?

YES / NO

Current research suggests that the results of the PC-PTSD should be considered "positive" if a patient answers "yes" to any three items.

## References

[Prins, A., Ouimette, P., Kimerling, R., Cameron, R. P., Hugelshofer, D. S., Shaw-Hegwer, J., Thrailkill, A., Gusman, F.D., Sheikh, J. I. \(2003\).](#) The primary care PTSD screen (PC-PTSD): development and operating characteristics. *Primary Care Psychiatry*, 9, 9-14

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## Additional Reviews

[Orsillo \(2001\)](#) p. 299

Orsillo, Susan M. (2001). Measures for acute stress disorder and posttraumatic stress disorder. In M.M. Antony & S.M. Orsillo (Eds.), *Practitioner's guide to empirically based measures of anxiety* (pp. 255-307). New York: KluwerAcademic/Plenum. PILOTS ID 24368

[Norris and Hamblen \(2004\)](#) p. 71

Norris, Fran H. & Hamblen, Jessica L. (2004). Standardized self-report measures of civilian trauma and PTSD. In J.P. Wilson, T.M. Keane & T. Martin (Eds.), *Assessing psychological trauma and PTSD* (pp. 63-102). New York: Guilford Press. PILOTS ID 18638