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Welcome Letter

Greetings,

Welcome to our integrated medical home!

You are receiving this packet because you or your physician have concerns regarding your child's behavior or emotional wellbeing and have scheduled an appointment for further assessment.

The assessment will be with your child's primary provider at Reading Pediatrics. For the best care, all follow-up visits related to behavioral health will be scheduled with the same provider. All concerns or questions related to behavioral health or medication adjustments will be directed to this provider.

Reading Pediatrics also has a designated behavioral health team consisting of a psychiatric nurse practitioner and a licensed social worker. After the initial assessment, some children will be referred to this team for a more comprehensive assessment. The goal of this team is to diagnose and stabilize more complex cases before they are returned to the care of their primary provider. You may upload your completed documents to the patient portal, fax to 610-621-0127, or drop off to any of our office locations. Faxed or hand delivered documents should be addressed to the attention of the Behavioral Health Care Team.

Prior to your visit, please review and complete the enclosed forms. These forms are necessary to move forward with the evaluation process. Please complete and return to the office in advance. These may be returned by mail, in person at any of our locations, or electronically through the patient portal. If you do not have completed paperwork, your visit may be rescheduled.

If your child has already been evaluated by school, a psychologist, or therapist, kindly bring any testing or correspondence with you for review by the physician. Let our office know if we need to request records from previous providers and specialists and sign the enclosed release of information.

We look forward to working with you!

The Providers of Reading Pediatrics

Does My Teen Need Help?

Physical Warning Signs:

- ▶ Cuts on arms or legs or other physical signs of self-harm
- ▶ Rapid or major weight loss or weight gain
- ▶ Physical injuries without good explanations
- ▶ Many stomach, head, and/or back aches
- ▶ Worsening of a chronic condition

Behavioral or Emotional Warning Signs:

- ▶ Major change in eating and/or sleeping habits
- ▶ Signs of frustration, stress, or anger
- ▶ Unusual or increasing fear, anxiety, or worry
- ▶ Relationship difficulties with family, friends, classmates, or teachers
- ▶ Skipping school, not participating in class, and/or a drop in grades
- ▶ Changes or problems with energy level or concentration
- ▶ Sudden mood swings
- ▶ Feeling down, hopeless, worthless, or guilty
- ▶ Aggressive or violent behavior
- ▶ Sudden loss of self confidence or sense of security
- ▶ Risky behaviors, breaking laws, stealing, hurting people
- ▶ Signs of alcohol or drug use
- ▶ Losing interest in things that were once enjoyed
- ▶ Constant concern about physical appearance or decrease in personal hygiene
- ▶ Isolation from others and often spends time alone
- ▶ Secretive about activities and whereabouts

If you notice any of the above warning signs, talk with your teen and then call your teen's health care provider. Be ready to discuss how serious the problem is, when the problem started, and any changes in your teen's school or family situation. Don't wait too long before seeking help.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR TEEN

- ☒ When and why did this problem start?
- ☒ Have you been having any thoughts about dying or hurting yourself?
- ☒ How much is this problem troubling you?
- ☒ How can I help you?
- ☒ Is the problem getting in the way of your school work or relationships with friends or family members?

Don't be afraid to ask your teen what's going on in his/her life. It will not cause any harm. A teenager in trouble needs support from caring parents.

MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES

- ▶ Losing touch with reality
- ▶ In great danger of harming him/herself
- ▶ In great danger of harming others

If your teen is having an emergency, take her/him to the nearest hospital emergency room or call 911.

DO NOT leave her/him alone or unattended. Remove all dangerous items (guns, knives, pills) from your teen's reach.

Do you have any comments or questions about this handout? Please contact Adolescent Health Working Group by emailing feedback@ahwg.net or calling (415) 554-8429. Thank you.

Sources:

- 1) Goodman RF. Choosing a Mental Health Professional for Your Child. New York University Child Study Center. 2000, <http://www.aboutourkids.org>
- 2) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Mental Health Information Center. Child and Adolescent Mental Health. 2003, <http://www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/publications/allpubs/CA-0004/default.asp>

Mental Health Crisis Contacts (effective 06/06/22):

Berks County:

Holcomb Crisis Intervention of Berks County: 610-379-2007 or 1-888-219-3910

Chester County:

Valley Creek Crisis Center: 877-918-2100

Lancaster County:

Lancaster County Crisis Intervention: 717-394-2631

Lebanon County:

Lebanon County Crisis Intervention: 717-274-3363

Montgomery County:

Montgomery County Emergency Services Inc.-Crisis Intervention: 610-279-6100

Schuylkill County:

Schuylkill County- Crisis/Emergency Services: 877-993-4357

Please visit the following website for Crisis Intervention in other PA Counties:

<https://www.cor.pa.gov/Documents/PA%20County%20Crisis%20Contacts.pdf>

ruOKBerks? is a texting option for individuals experiencing suicidal ideations offered via Berks County Suicide Prevention Task Force. Individuals should text 484-816-RUOK (7865).

My Child is in Crisis and is Having Suicidal Thoughts. What Should I do?

You are not alone. This is a difficult time for a family. Children struggle with emotions that they don't know how to handle and parents oftentimes feel helpless when they can't fix the situation for their children. When one child is in crisis, it impacts the entire family.

The following is a general Safety/Crisis Protocol to be implemented to assure your child's safety:

Safety Planning Protocol:

Please be sure to secure:

1. All sharp objects (kitchen/pocketknives, scissors, razors)
2. Medications (over the counter (OTC) or prescription)
 - a. Medications should be dispensed by an adult on a daily/per time basis
 - b. Medications can either be placed into weekly pill organizers if agreed to by provider
3. Any lethal weapons (arrows/guns/rope)

Patient and parent must agree:

1. That patient will share with an adult when experiencing suicidal ideations.
 - a. Communication can be verbal or non-verbal
 - b. Code words designed to communicate that the patient doesn't feel safe or is having negative self-thoughts often work well in these situations
2. Adults can offer to listen if patient wants to talk, but do not force the patient to talk as this often exacerbates the negative feelings.
3. Please be supportive and validate your child's feelings...It must be hard to feel ..., is there anything that I can do to help? We're family, we will get through this together...
4. Be cautious to refrain from telling your child that they have so many things to be thankful for or their feelings don't make sense.
5. Patient will be supervised 1:1 by an adult while these feelings continue
 - a. An adult will be in eyesight of patient at all times
 - b. Patient agrees to leave bathroom door open when in use
 - c. Parent may have to sleep in the same room as patient.
6. Patient will be encouraged to engage in activities including, but not limited to:
 - a. Journaling
 - b. Arts/crafts
 - c. Listening to upbeat music
 - d. Watching humorous television shows/movies
 - e. Go for drive outside the home
 - f. Puzzles

If the patient attends therapy, please contact the therapist to discuss increasing the frequency of sessions.

If the patient receives medication management services, please speak to a provider/representative to discuss whether an adjustment is needed.

If the patient is not prescribed medication, please schedule an appointment with the patient's primary care provider to discuss whether medication may be helpful.

We recognize and respect the level of severity mental health crises present. Please try to be patient. Unfortunately, most mental health medications do take time to become effective.

If your child's feelings continue for a 24 hour period of time or he/she expresses suicidal ideations with an active plan and/or intent please:

1. Call your county's crisis center (see list below)
2. Go to the nearest emergency room
3. Call 911

I agree to follow the above stated safety protocol:

_____	_____
Patient	Date
_____	_____
Parent/Guardian	Date

Crisis Contacts:

Berks County:

Holcomb Crisis Intervention of Berks County: 610-379-2007 or 1-888-219-3910

Chester County:

Valley Creek Crisis Center: 877-918-2100

Lancaster County:

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Montgomery County:

Montgomery County Emergency Services Inc.-Crisis Intervention: 610-279-6100

Schuylkill County:

Schuylkill County- Crisis/Emergency Services: 877-993-4357

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Screen for Child Anxiety Related Disorders (SCARED)

CHILD Version—Page 1 of 2 (to be filled out by the CHILD)

Developed by Boris Birmaher, M.D., Suneeta Khetarpal, M.D., Marlane Cully, M.Ed., David Brent, M.D., and Sandra McKenzie, Ph.D., Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, University of Pittsburgh (*October, 1995*). E-mail: birmaherb@upmc.edu

See: Birmaher, B., Brent, D. A., Chiappetta, L., Bridge, J., Monga, S., & Baugher, M. (1999). Psychometric properties of the Screen for Child Anxiety Related Emotional Disorders (SCARED): a replication study. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 38(10), 1230–6.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions:

Below is a list of sentences that describe how people feel. Read each phrase and decide if it is “Not True or Hardly Ever True” or “Somewhat True or Sometimes True” or “Very True or Often True” for you. Then, for each sentence, fill in one circle that corresponds to the response that seems to describe you *for the last 3 months*.

	0 Not True or Hardly Ever True	1 Somewhat True or Sometimes True	2 Very True or Often True	
1. When I feel frightened, it is hard to breathe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
2. I get headaches when I am at school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SH
3. I don't like to be with people I don't know well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SC
4. I get scared if I sleep away from home.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SP
5. I worry about other people liking me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
6. When I get frightened, I feel like passing out.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
7. I am nervous.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
8. I follow my mother or father wherever they go.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SP
9. People tell me that I look nervous.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
10. I feel nervous with people I don't know well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SC
11. I get stomachaches at school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SH
12. When I get frightened, I feel like I am going crazy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
13. I worry about sleeping alone.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SP
14. I worry about being as good as other kids.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
15. When I get frightened, I feel like things are not real.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
16. I have nightmares about something bad happening to my parents.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SP
17. I worry about going to school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SH
18. When I get frightened, my heart beats fast.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
19. I get shaky.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
20. I have nightmares about something bad happening to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SP

Screen for Child Anxiety Related Disorders (SCARED)

CHILD Version—Page 2 of 2 (to be filled out by the CHILD)

	0 Not True or Hardly Ever True	1 Somewhat True or Sometimes True	2 Very True or Often True	
21. I worry about things working out for me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
22. When I get frightened, I sweat a lot.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
23. I am a worrier.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
24. I get really frightened for no reason at all.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
25. I am afraid to be alone in the house.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SP
26. It is hard for me to talk with people I don't know well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SC
27. When I get frightened, I feel like I am choking.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
28. People tell me that I worry too much.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
29. I don't like to be away from my family.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SP
30. I am afraid of having anxiety (or panic) attacks.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
31. I worry that something bad might happen to my parents.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SP
32. I feel shy with people I don't know well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SC
33. I worry about what is going to happen in the future.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
34. When I get frightened, I feel like throwing up.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
35. I worry about how well I do things.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
36. I am scared to go to school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SH
37. I worry about things that have already happened.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
38. When I get frightened, I feel dizzy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
39. I feel nervous when I am with other children or adults and I have to do something while they watch me (for example: read aloud, speak, play a game, play a sport).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SC
40. I feel nervous when I am going to parties, dances, or any place where there will be people that I don't know well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SC
41. I am shy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SC

SCORING:

A total score of ≥ 25 may indicate the presence of an **Anxiety Disorder**. Scores higher than 30 are more specific. **TOTAL =**

A score of **7** for items 1, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22, 24, 27, 30, 34, 38 may indicate **Panic Disorder** or **Significant Somatic Symptoms**. **PN =**

A score of **9** for items 5, 7, 14, 21, 23, 28, 33, 35, 37 may indicate **Generalized Anxiety Disorder**. **GD =**

A score of **5** for items 4, 8, 13, 16, 20, 25, 29, 31 may indicate **Separation Anxiety SOC**. **SP =**

A score of **8** for items 3, 10, 26, 32, 39, 40, 41 may indicate **Social Anxiety Disorder**. **SC =**

A score of **3** for items 2, 11, 17, 36 may indicate **Significant School Avoidance**. **SH =**

For children ages 8 to 11, it is recommended that the clinician explain all questions, or have the child answer the questionnaire sitting with an adult in case they have any questions.

The SCARED is available at no cost at [www.wpic.pitt.edu/research under tools and assessments](http://www.wpic.pitt.edu/research_under_tools_and_assessments), or at www.pediatric bipolar.pitt.edu under instruments.

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Screen for Child Anxiety Related Disorders (SCARED)

PARENT Version—Page 1 of 2 (to be filled out by the PARENT)

Developed by Boris Birmaher, M.D., Suneeta Khetarpal, M.D., Marlane Cully, M.Ed., David Brent, M.D., and Sandra McKenzie, Ph.D., Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, University of Pittsburgh (October, 1995). E-mail: birmaherb@upmc.edu

See: Birmaher, B., Brent, D. A., Chiappetta, L., Bridge, J., Monga, S., & Baugher, M. (1999). Psychometric properties of the Screen for Child Anxiety Related Emotional Disorders (SCARED): a replication study. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 38(10), 1230–6.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions:

Below is a list of sentences that describe how people feel. Read each phrase and decide if it is “Not True or Hardly Ever True” or “Somewhat True or Sometimes True” or “Very True or Often True” for your child. Then, for each statement, fill in one circle that corresponds to the response that seems to describe your child for the last 3 months. Please respond to all statements as well as you can, even if some do not seem to concern your child.

	0 Not True or Hardly Ever True	1 Somewhat True or Sometimes True	2 Very True or Often True	
1. When my child feels frightened, it is hard for him/her to breathe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
2. My child gets headaches when he/she am at school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SH
3. My child doesn't like to be with people he/she doesn't know well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SC
4. My child gets scared if he/she sleeps away from home.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SP
5. My child worries about other people liking him/her.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
6. When my child gets frightened, he/she feels like passing out.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
7. My child is nervous.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
8. My child follows me wherever I go.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SP
9. People tell me that my child looks nervous.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
10. My child feels nervous with people he/she doesn't know well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SC
11. My child gets stomachaches at school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SH
12. When my child gets frightened, he/she feels like he/she is going crazy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
13. My child worries about sleeping alone.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SP
14. My child worries about being as good as other kids.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
15. When my child gets frightened, he/she feels like things are not real.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
16. My child has nightmares about something bad happening to his/her parents.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SP
17. My child worries about going to school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SH
18. When my child gets frightened, his/her heart beats fast.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
19. He/she child gets shaky.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
20. My child has nightmares about something bad happening to him/her.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SP

Screen for Child Anxiety Related Disorders (SCARED)

PARENT Version—Page 2 of 2 (to be filled out by the RCTGP V)

	0 Not True or Hardly Ever True	1 Somewhat True or Sometimes True	2 Very True or Often True	
21. O {"ej krf "y qttlgu about things working out for j ko lj gt.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
22. When o {"ej krf getu frightened, j gluj g sweatu a lot.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
23. O {"ej krf "ku a worrier.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
24. O {"ej krf "getu really frightened for no reason at all.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
25. O {"ej krf "ku afraid to be alone in the house.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SP
26. It is hard for m {"ej krf to talk with people j gluj g dogun't know well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SC
27. When o {"ej krf getu frightened, j gluj g feelu like j gluj g "ku choking.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
28. People tell me that o {"ej krf worrkgu too much.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
29. O {"ej krf "f qgup)like to be away from j kulj gt family.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SP
30. O {"ej krf "ku afraid of having anxiety (or panic) attacks.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
31. O {"ej krf worrkgu that something bad might happen to j kulj gt parents.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SP
32. O {"ej krf feelu shy with people j gluj g dogun't know well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SC
33. O {"ej krf "worrkgu about what is going to happen in the future.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
34. When o {"ej krf getu frightened, j gluj g feelu like throwing up.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
35. O {"ej krf worrkgu about how well j gluj g dogu things.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
36. O {"ej krf ku scared to go to school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SH
37. O {"ej krf "y qttlgu about things that have already happened.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	GD
38. When o {"ej krf getu frightened, j gluj g feelu dizzy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	PN
39. O {"ej krf feelu nervous when j gluj g "ku with other children or adults cpf "j gluj g"j cu"q"q"something while they watch j ko lj gt (for example: tgcf "crqwf. "ur gcm"r r {"c"game, play a sport).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SC
40. O {"ej krf feelu nervous when j gluj g "ku going to parties, dances, or any r meg"y j gtg"y gtg"y kn'dg"people that j gluj g dogun't know well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SC
41. O {"ej krf "ku shy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SC

SCORING:

A total score of **≥ 25** may indicate the presence of an **Anxiety Disorder**. Scores higher than 30 are more specific. **TOTAL =**

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A score of **8** for items 3, 10, 26, 32, 39, 40, 41 may indicate **Social Anxiety Disorder**. **SC =**

A score of **3** for items 2, 11, 17, 36 may indicate **Significant School Avoidance**. **SH =**

The SCARED is available at no cost at www.wpic.pitt.edu/research_under_tools_and_assessments, or at www.pediatric_bipolar.pitt.edu under instruments.

NICHQ Vanderbilt Assessment Scale—PARENT Informant

Today's Date: _____ Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parent's Name: _____ Parent's Phone Number: _____

Directions: Each rating should be considered in the context of what is appropriate for the age of your child.
When completing this form, please think about your child's behaviors in the past 6 months.

Is this evaluation based on a time when the child ☐ was on medication ☐ was not on medication ☐ not sure?

Symptoms	Never	Occasionally	Often	Very Often
1. Does not pay attention to details or makes careless mistakes with, for example, homework	0	1	2	3
2. Has difficulty keeping attention to what needs to be done	0	1	2	3
3. Does not seem to listen when spoken to directly	0	1	2	3
4. Does not follow through when given directions and fails to finish activities (not due to refusal or failure to understand)	0	1	2	3
5. Has difficulty organizing tasks and activities	0	1	2	3
6. Avoids, dislikes, or does not want to start tasks that require ongoing mental effort	0	1	2	3
7. Loses things necessary for tasks or activities (toys, assignments, pencils, or books)	0	1	2	3
8. Is easily distracted by noises or other stimuli	0	1	2	3
9. Is forgetful in daily activities	0	1	2	3
10. Fidgets with hands or feet or squirms in seat	0	1	2	3
11. Leaves seat when remaining seated is expected	0	1	2	3
12. Runs about or climbs too much when remaining seated is expected	0	1	2	3
13. Has difficulty playing or beginning quiet play activities	0	1	2	3
14. Is "on the go" or often acts as if "driven by a motor"	0	1	2	3
15. Talks too much	0	1	2	3
16. Blurts out answers before questions have been completed	0	1	2	3
17. Has difficulty waiting his or her turn	0	1	2	3
18. Interrupts or intrudes in on others' conversations and/or activities	0	1	2	3
19. Argues with adults	0	1	2	3
20. Loses temper	0	1	2	3
21. Actively defies or refuses to go along with adults' requests or rules	0	1	2	3
22. Deliberately annoys people	0	1	2	3
23. Blames others for his or her mistakes or misbehaviors	0	1	2	3
24. Is touchy or easily annoyed by others	0	1	2	3
25. Is angry or resentful	0	1	2	3
26. Is spiteful and wants to get even	0	1	2	3
27. Bullies, threatens, or intimidates others	0	1	2	3
28. Starts physical fights	0	1	2	3
29. Lies to get out of trouble or to avoid obligations (ie, "cons" others)	0	1	2	3
30. Is truant from school (skips school) without permission	0	1	2	3
31. Is physically cruel to people	0	1	2	3
32. Has stolen things that have value	0	1	2	3

The information contained in this publication should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.

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Adapted from the Vanderbilt Rating Scales developed by Mark L. Wolraich, MD.

Revised - 1102

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NICHQ
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NICHQ Vanderbilt Assessment Scale—PARENT Informant

Today's Date: _____ Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parent's Name: _____ Parent's Phone Number: _____

Symptoms (continued)	Never	Occasionally	Often	Very Often
33. Deliberately destroys others' property	0	1	2	3
34. Has used a weapon that can cause serious harm (bat, knife, brick, gun)	0	1	2	3
35. Is physically cruel to animals	0	1	2	3
36. Has deliberately set fires to cause damage	0	1	2	3
37. Has broken into someone else's home, business, or car	0	1	2	3
38. Has stayed out at night without permission	0	1	2	3
39. Has run away from home overnight	0	1	2	3
40. Has forced someone into sexual activity	0	1	2	3
41. Is fearful, anxious, or worried	0	1	2	3
42. Is afraid to try new things for fear of making mistakes	0	1	2	3
43. Feels worthless or inferior	0	1	2	3
44. Blames self for problems, feels guilty	0	1	2	3
45. Feels lonely, unwanted, or unloved; complains that "no one loves him or her"	0	1	2	3
46. Is sad, unhappy, or depressed	0	1	2	3
47. Is self-conscious or easily embarrassed	0	1	2	3

Performance	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Somewhat of a Problem	Problematic
48. Overall school performance	1	2	3	4	5
49. Reading	1	2	3	4	5
50. Writing	1	2	3	4	5
51. Mathematics	1	2	3	4	5
52. Relationship with parents	1	2	3	4	5
53. Relationship with siblings	1	2	3	4	5
54. Relationship with peers	1	2	3	4	5
55. Participation in organized activities (eg, teams)	1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

For Office Use Only

Total number of questions scored 2 or 3 in questions 1–9: _____

Total number of questions scored 2 or 3 in questions 10–18: _____

Total Symptom Score for questions 1–18: _____

Total number of questions scored 2 or 3 in questions 19–26: _____

Total number of questions scored 2 or 3 in questions 27–40: _____

Total number of questions scored 2 or 3 in questions 41–47: _____

Total number of questions scored 4 or 5 in questions 48–55: _____

Average Performance Score: _____



Teacher's Name: _____ Class Time: _____ Class Name/Period: _____

Today's Date: _____ Child's Name: _____ Grade Level: _____

Directions: Each rating should be considered in the context of what is appropriate for the age of the child you are rating and should reflect that child's behavior since the beginning of the school year. Please indicate the number of weeks or months you have been able to evaluate the behaviors: _____.

Is this evaluation based on a time when the child ☐ was on medication ☐ was not on medication ☐ not sure?

Symptoms	Never	Occasionally	Often	Very Often
1. Fails to give attention to details or makes careless mistakes in schoolwork	0	1	2	3
2. Has difficulty sustaining attention to tasks or activities	0	1	2	3
3. Does not seem to listen when spoken to directly	0	1	2	3
4. Does not follow through on instructions and fails to finish schoolwork (not due to oppositional behavior or failure to understand)	0	1	2	3
5. Has difficulty organizing tasks and activities	0	1	2	3
6. Avoids, dislikes, or is reluctant to engage in tasks that require sustained mental effort	0	1	2	3
7. Loses things necessary for tasks or activities (school assignments, pencils, or books)	0	1	2	3
8. Is easily distracted by extraneous stimuli	0	1	2	3
9. Is forgetful in daily activities	0	1	2	3
10. Fidgets with hands or feet or squirms in seat	0	1	2	3
11. Leaves seat in classroom or in other situations in which remaining seated is expected	0	1	2	3
12. Runs about or climbs excessively in situations in which remaining seated is expected	0	1	2	3
13. Has difficulty playing or engaging in leisure activities quietly	0	1	2	3
14. Is "on the go" or often acts as if "driven by a motor"	0	1	2	3
15. Talks excessively	0	1	2	3
16. Blurts out answers before questions have been completed	0	1	2	3
17. Has difficulty waiting in line	0	1	2	3
18. Interrupts or intrudes on others (eg, butts into conversations/games)	0	1	2	3
19. Loses temper	0	1	2	3
20. Actively defies or refuses to comply with adult's requests or rules	0	1	2	3
21. Is angry or resentful	0	1	2	3
22. Is spiteful and vindictive	0	1	2	3
23. Bullies, threatens, or intimidates others	0	1	2	3
24. Initiates physical fights	0	1	2	3
25. Lies to obtain goods for favors or to avoid obligations (eg, "cons" others)	0	1	2	3
26. Is physically cruel to people	0	1	2	3
27. Has stolen items of nontrivial value	0	1	2	3
28. Deliberately destroys others' property	0	1	2	3
29. Is fearful, anxious, or worried	0	1	2	3
30. Is self-conscious or easily embarrassed	0	1	2	3
31. Is afraid to try new things for fear of making mistakes	0	1	2	3

The recommendations in this publication do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate.

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Adapted from the Vanderbilt Rating Scales developed by Mark L. Wolraich, MD.

Revised - 0303

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McNeil
Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceuticals

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HE0351

Teacher's Name: _____ Class Time: _____ Class Name/Period: _____

Today's Date: _____ Child's Name: _____ Grade Level: _____

Symptoms (continued)	Never	Occasionally	Often	Very Often
32. Feels worthless or inferior	0	1	2	3
33. Blames self for problems; feels guilty	0	1	2	3
34. Feels lonely, unwanted, or unloved; complains that "no one loves him or her"	0	1	2	3
35. Is sad, unhappy, or depressed	0	1	2	3

Performance	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Somewhat of a Problem	Problematic
Academic Performance					
36. Reading	1	2	3	4	5
37. Mathematics	1	2	3	4	5
38. Written expression	1	2	3	4	5

Classroom Behavioral Performance	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Somewhat of a Problem	Problematic
39. Relationship with peers	1	2	3	4	5
40. Following directions	1	2	3	4	5
41. Disrupting class	1	2	3	4	5
42. Assignment completion	1	2	3	4	5
43. Organizational skills	1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

Please return this form to: _____

Mailing address: _____

Fax number: _____

For Office Use Only

Total number of questions scored 2 or 3 in questions 1–9: _____

Total number of questions scored 2 or 3 in questions 10–18: _____

Total Symptom Score for questions 1–18: _____

Total number of questions scored 2 or 3 in questions 19–28: _____

Total number of questions scored 2 or 3 in questions 29–35: _____

Total number of questions scored 4 or 5 in questions 36–43: _____

Average Performance Score: _____

Please fax responses to:
Reading Pediatrics
Fax: 610-621-0127
Attn: Behavioral Health Team

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11-20/rev0303

NICHQ
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To be filled out by patient. (AGES 11 AND UP)
Please allow your child to answer these questions in private.

PHQ-9 modified for Adolescents (PHQ-A)

Name: _____ Clinician: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: How often have you been bothered by each of the following symptoms during the past **two weeks**? For each symptom put an "X" in the box beneath the answer that best describes how you have been feeling.

	(0) Not at all	(1) Several days	(2) More than half the days	(3) Nearly every day
1. Feeling down, depressed, irritable, or hopeless?				
2. Little interest or pleasure in doing things?				
3. Trouble falling asleep, staying asleep, or sleeping too much?				
4. Poor appetite, weight loss, or overeating?				
5. Feeling tired, or having little energy?				
6. Feeling bad about yourself – or feeling that you are a failure, or that you have let yourself or your family down?				
7. Trouble concentrating on things like school work, reading, or watching TV?				
8. Moving or speaking so slowly that other people could have noticed? Or the opposite – being so fidgety or restless that you were moving around a lot more than usual?				
9. Thoughts that you would be better off dead, or of hurting yourself in some way?				

In the **past year** have you felt depressed or sad most days, even if you felt okay sometimes?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you are experiencing any of the problems on this form, how **difficult** have these problems made it for you to do your work, take care of things at home or get along with other people?

☐ Not difficult at all ☐ Somewhat difficult ☐ Very difficult ☐ Extremely difficult

Has there been a time in the **past month** when you have had serious thoughts about ending your life?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you **EVER**, in your WHOLE LIFE, tried to kill yourself or made a suicide attempt?

☐ Yes ☐ No

***If you have had thoughts that you would be better off dead or of hurting yourself in some way, please discuss this with your Health Care Clinician, go to a hospital emergency room or call 911.*

Office use only:

Severity score: _____

Modified with permission from the PHQ (Spitzer, Williams & Kroenke, 1999) by J. Johnson (Johnson, 2002)

Limited List of Local Behavioral Health Providers

@Family Guidance Center #

<https://familyguidancecenter.com/site>

1105 Berkshire Blvd., Suite 110

Wyomissing, PA 19610

Additional offices in Kutztown, Hamburg, and
Boyertown

610-374-4963

****@Betterview Counseling and Trauma Recovery #**

<https://betterviewcounseling.com>

845 N. Park Road, Suite 101

Wyomissing, PA 19610

484-709-1381

Fax: 833-490-1352

@Alternative Consulting Enterprises #

<https://altcsll.org>

527 East Lancaster Ave., Shillington, PA 19607

610-796-8110

@Concern Counseling #

<https://concern4kids.org>

22-24 North Franklin St., Fleetwood, PA 19522

610-944-0445

1120-C Hobart Ave., Wyomissing, PA 19610

610-371-8035

@PA Counseling

<https://pacounseling.com/reading-wyomissing/>

1733 Penn Ave.,

West Lawn, PA 19609

610-670-7270

@Berkshire Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Services #

<https://berkshirepsychiatric.com/>

716 North Park Rd., Wyomissing, PA 19610

610 375-0544

640 Walnut St. Suite 303, Reading PA 19601

610-208-8860

@Empowerment Behavioral Health

<https://empowermentbh.com>

833 North Park Rd, Suite 101, Wyomissing, PA

19610

610-396-5094

@Child and Family Support Services

<https://cfss-pa.com>

1418 Clarion St., Reading, PA 19601

610-376-8558

@Berks Counseling Center #

<https://berkscounselingcenter.org>

645 Penn St., 2nd floor, Reading, PA 19602

610-373-4281

Berks Counseling Associates

<https://www.berkscounselingassociates.com>

1150 Berkshire Blvd., Ste 250, Wyomissing, PA
19610

610-373-7005

@Commonwealth Clinical Group

<https://commwealthclinicalgroup.com>

450 South 5th St., Reading, PA 19602

844-331-3551; 610-372-5645

@DGR Behavioral Health

<https://dgrbehavioralhealth.com>

2201 Ridgewood Rd., Ste. 400, Wyomissing,
PA 19610

610-378-9601

@Reading Counseling Services

<https://readingcounselingservices.com/>

122 W. Lancaster Ave., Shillington, PA 19607

(888) 768-4372

Mind Matters

<https://www.mymindmatterscounseling.com/>

Van Reed Office Plaza

2209 Quarry Drive, A-10

Reading, Pennsylvania 19609

(844) 696-4631

****These providers see patients in the Reading Pediatrics offices. Please speak with your provider for specific referral to these providers. @- has psychiatric services within practice **Bold**-provider accepts Medical Assistance/CCBH #- Provider accepts CHIP**
Rev. 01/02/2026

Limited List of Local Behavioral Health Providers

@Creative Health Services

<https://creativehs.org/>

321 N. Furnace St., Ste. 40, Birdsboro, PA 19508

610-404-8825

5th and Montgomery Ave. Boyertown, PA 19512

610-369-7271

11 Robinson St., Pottstown, PA 19464

484-941-0500

Fairview Counseling

<https://fairviewcounseling.org>

1255 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, PA 19602

610-396-9091

@Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems

[https://chimes.org/about/chimes-](https://chimes.org/about/chimes-family/holcomb-behavioral-health-systems)

[family/holcomb-behavioral-health-systems](https://chimes.org/about/chimes-family/holcomb-behavioral-health-systems)

1011 Reed Ave, Ste. 900, Wyomissing, PA 19610

610-939-9999

Paragon Behavioral Health Services

<https://paragonbhs.com>

510 N. Park Rd., Ste. 2, Wyomissing, PA 19610

484-516-2330

@Malvern Community Health Services

<https://malvernchs.com/clients/reading>

144 N. 6th St., Reading, PA 19601

610-375-74754

1610 Medical Dr., Ste. 310

Pottstown, PA 19464

610-970-5000

Shoudt and Reilly Psychological Services

<https://shoudtreillypsychologicalservices.com>

6720 E. Perkiomen Ave., Birdsboro, PA 19508

610-544-2110

River of Hope Therapeutic Ministries

(Christian Counselors):

<https://riverofhope.org>

100 Forney Rd., Lebanon, PA 17042

717-274-3950

@Furnace Creek Counseling

<https://www.furnacecreekcounseling.com/>

140 Penn Ave., Ste. 2, Robeson, PA 19551

610-750-9135

@Center for Mental Health (Tower Health)

<https://towerhealth.org>

Sixth and Spruce Sts.

Building K

Reading, PA 19611

484-628-8070

Everlasting Wellness

<https://everlastingwellnesscounseling.com/>

2913 Windmill Rd.

Wyomissing, PA 19608

610-379-2041

Emotional Wellness

<http://emwell.org/services/>

The Spine and Wellness Center

3933 Perkiomen Avenue, Suite 102

Reading, PA 19606

610-779-7272

Jeff Laubach

2209 Quarry Dr., Suite C-36

West Lawn, PA 19609

610-685-8621

Empowering Minds

3803 Kutztown Road

Laureldale, PA 19605

(610) 859-4242

These providers see patients in the Reading Pediatrics offices. Please speak with your provider for specific referral to these providers. @- has psychiatric services within practice **Bold-provider accepts Medical Assistance/CCBH #- Provider accepts CHIP

Rev. 01/02/2026



Reading Pediatrics

40 Berkshire Court Wyomissing, PA 19610

(P) 610-374-7400 (F) 610-374-4252

Authorization for Release of Information

Patient Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

I hereby authorize Reading Pediatrics to exchange information with:

Physician/Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Fax: _____

The information to be **RELEASED** for the purpose of coordination of care is:

☐ Complete Medical Record

☐ Discharge Summaries

☐ Medication List

☐ Treatment Plans

☐ Medical History

☐ Lab Reports

☐ Individual Education Plan (IEP)

☐ Integrated Clinical Summary

☐ Psychological Evaluation

☐ Immunization Records

☐ Substance Abuse Information

☐ Psychiatric Evaluation

☐ Other: _____

The information to be **OBTAINED** for the purpose of coordination of care is:

☐ Complete Medical Record

☐ Discharge Summaries

☐ Medication List

☐ Treatment Plans

☐ Medical History

☐ Lab Reports

☐ Individual Education Plan (IEP)

☐ Integrated Clinical Summary

☐ Psychological Evaluation

☐ Immunization Records

☐ Substance Abuse Information

☐ Psychiatric Evaluation

☐ Other: _____

I have been told that, to protect the confidentiality of records, my agreement to obtain or release information is necessary and that this permission is limited to the person and purposes listed above and will be effective for one year after the date of my signature unless specified below. I also understand that I may revoke this authorization except to the extent that action has already been taken. Refusal to disclose all or some health care information may result in improper diagnosis or treatment. Denial of coverage or a claim, for health benefits/insurance or adverse consequences. Your signature or refusal to sign this consent will not solely be used as a basis for treatment.

This consent shall be in effect from _____ until _____
Date of release (1 year if end date not specified)

Would you like a copy of this release? YES NO

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Relationship to Patient: _____

Signature of Patient (14 years and older) _____

Date: _____

(Needed for Release of Mental health/Substance Abuse Records)

Witness: _____

Date: _____

ATTENTION

PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTHCARE NEEDS

Chronic Conditions: Physical, Developmental, Behavioral, or Emotional

Are you aware your child may be eligible for medical assistance?

Medical Assistance Benefits are **not** dependent on parent's income

Your child may be eligible even if you have other insurance

Medical Assistance can pay for services **not** covered by other insurance

For More Information:

CALL: 1-800-986-KIDS

OR

www.compass.state.pa.us

NOTE -Mark application "MA only child with disability"



Why You Should Have Medical Assistance (MA) for Your Child And the Steps to follow to obtain MA

Regardless of whether the child is covered under private insurance, a child with special healthcare needs should have medical assistance. Why? Because medical assistance covers many things that are not covered by private insurance.

Medical assistance (hereinafter “MA”) has the broadest coverage of medical and mental health services for individuals under 18 of any insurance plan. Services provided under MA that private insurance often does not cover include behavioral health services, in-home nursing services, in-home personal care services, diapers, nutritional supplements, prescriptions and transportation to medical appointments. Behavioral health services are often referred to as “wraparound” services and included a Therapeutic Support Staff (TSS), a Mobile Therapist (MT) and a Behavior Specialist Consultant (BSC) who all work together to provide behavior support to children at home and at school. MA also covers various types of therapy such as occupational, physical, and speech and language. Often private insurance companies place a cap on these services whereas MA does not. MA can be a child’s only insurance or it can be secondary. Where it is secondary, MA will cover services not covered by insurance, including co-pays, and can cover the therapies in addition to those covered by insurance.

A common misconception about MA is that income of the parents is considered; however, income of the parents is irrelevant to eligibility. Why? Because of Category PH 95, which is considered a “loophole” and allows qualified individuals to obtain MA without consideration of the parents’ income. Generally speaking, in order to qualify under the loophole, the child must have a disability or condition that limits his or her ability to perform basic functions including physical, neurological, sensory, cognitive, and psychological functioning.

Thus, the majority of children who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will be eligible for MA. In order to establish that your child meets these standards you will need to provide any medical reports, therapy reports, guidance counseling reports and Evaluation Reports (ERs) prepared by your school district, intermediate unit or early intervention program.

To apply, you can call 1-800-986-5437 and request to begin the application over the phone. You can also apply online at <https://www.compass.state.pa.us>

In addition, documentation of your child’s disability (diagnosis), you will need to provide the child’s social security card, birth certificate, proof of address and documentation of income in the child’s name (interest or dividends and earnings of a child’s income are considered)

You will also need to obtain a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) determination. SSI provides a monthly check and MA to qualified persons who meet Social Security’s disability criteria and have low income and assets. Even if you are not seeking SSI, your local county office may advise that you need an SSI eligibility determination to obtain MA. To receive an SSI eligibility determination, you simply call 1-800-772-1213 and follow the prompts to speak to a representative to set up a phone or in-person interview. Keep in mind that parental income matters for SSI so many families will be denied.

Thus, be prepared to have documentation of income available for the interview. If you do not meet SSI requirements for income reasons, you will receive a denial letter which you then need to provide to your county case worker.

You will receive a DAP (Disability Advocacy Program) referral packet and the county caseworker typically will highlight the areas within the packet that require your signature or initials. Once you receive the packet, sign the required forms and mail back immediately. Your signature will allow the county case worker to follow the progress of the SSI application.

Having medical coverage for your child is essential, especially when you have a child with special needs. Medical assistance provides extensive coverage that private insurance may not.

Income of the parent is not relevant to qualification for MA. Thus, parents who have a child with a disability should take the necessary steps to ensure they have MA for their child.

MA Application Tips for Applying due to Patient's Behavioral Health needs:

1. Plan to spend 1.5-2 hours completing the application.
2. Use the big blue box on the left side of the page. Box states "Apply Now"
3. Take a picture of or write down your efile # once provided in the event that you are booted out of the program while completing the application process.
4. Gather pertinent information before starting for all household members.
 - a. Name
 - b. date of birth
 - c. driver's license numbers
 - d. social security numbers
5. For adult members, questions are asked regarding:
 - a. name and location of employers
 - b. income prior to taxes
 - c. amount earned per hour/salary
 - d. how often is pay received
 - e. when was the last payment
 - f. how many miles do you drive to work
 - g. do you own a car, do you pay \$ for transportation to someone else
6. Does anyone have a serious medical condition? Yes.
 - a. This will eventually generate a drop-down box where you add patient's diagnoses (all medical and behavioral health) and a statement that patient has been recommended for intensive in-home services.
 - b. Needs to be brief as box is not long
7. Does anyone have any paid or unpaid medical bills in the past 90 days? Answer yes if patient has been to any provider in the past 3 months.
8. At the end of the application, there is a box for comments. Please note "I/we believe that patient qualifies for MA under PH95.
9. You may be told that you must file for SSI or SSD benefits. You will have to complete the process if you want approval for MA, but may not qualify based on family income.