

Abbreviated PCL-C

This Abbreviated PCL-C is a shortened version of the PTSD Checklist – Civilian version (PCL-C). It was developed for use with in primary care or other similar general medical settings. Professional judgment should be used in generalizing it to other settings or if using the Military or Specific versions of the PCL. The initial development of the measure is presented in:

Lang, A.J., Stein, M.B. (2005) An abbreviated PTSD checklist for use as a screening instrument in primary care. *Behaviour Research and Therapy*, 43, 585-594

Additional psychometric information about this measure is available in:

Lang, A. J., Wilkins, K., Roy-Byrne, P. P., Golinelli, D., Chavira, D., Sherbourne, C., Rose, R. D., Bystritsky, A., Sullivan, G., Craske, M. G., & Stein, M. B. (2012). Abbreviated PTSD Checklist (PCL) as a Guide to Clinical Response. *General Hospital Psychiatry*, 34, 332-338.

You can generate 2 brief versions by extracting the instructions, items and response choices from the PCL-C (which is included in this document):

- The **2-item version** consists of items 1 and 4. An individual is considered to have screened positive if the sum of these items is 4 or greater.
- The **6-item version** consists of items 1, 4, 7, 10, 14 and 15. An individual is considered to have screened positive if the sum of these items is 14 or greater.

Appropriate citation of the Abbreviated PCL-C would include references to the above papers (Lang & Stein, 2005; Lang et al., 2012) as well as to the full PCL (Weathers, Litz, Herman, Huska, & Keane, 1993).

The complete reference for the PCL is:

Weathers, F., Litz, B., Herman, D., Huska, J., & Keane, T. (October 1993). The PTSD Checklist (PCL): Reliability, Validity, and Diagnostic Utility. Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, San Antonio, TX.

PCL-C

The next questions are about problems and complaints that people sometimes have in response to stressful life experiences. Please indicate how much you have been bothered by each problem in the past month. For these questions, the response options are: “not at all”, “a little bit”, “moderately”, “quite a bit”, or “extremely”.

		Not at all	A little bit	Moderately	Quite A Bit	Extremely
PCL1	Repeated, disturbing memories, thoughts, or images of a stressful experience from the past?	1	2	3	4	5
PCL2	Repeated, disturbing dreams of a stressful experience from the past?	1	2	3	4	5
PCL3	Suddenly acting or feeling as if a stressful experience from the past were happening again (as if you were reliving it)?	1	2	3	4	5
PCL4	Feeling very upset when something reminded you of a stressful experience from the past?	1	2	3	4	5
PCL5	Having physical reactions (e.g., heart pounding, trouble breathing, sweating) when something reminded you of a stressful experience from the past?	1	2	3	4	5
PCL6	Avoiding thinking or talking about a stressful experience from the past or avoiding having feelings related to it?	1	2	3	4	5
PCL7	Avoided activities or situations because they reminded you of a stressful experience from the past?	1	2	3	4	5
PCL8	Having trouble remembering important parts of a stressful experience from the past?	1	2	3	4	5
PCL9	Loss of interest in activities that you used to enjoy?	1	2	3	4	5
PCL10	Feeling distant or cut off from other people?	1	2	3	4	5
PCL11	Feeling emotionally numb or being unable to have loving feelings for those close to you?	1	2	3	4	5
PCL12	Feeling as if your future somehow will be cut short?	1	2	3	4	5
PCL13	Having trouble falling or staying asleep?	1	2	3	4	5
PCL14	Feeling irritable or having angry outbursts?	1	2	3	4	5
PCL15	Difficulty concentrating?	1	2	3	4	5
PCL16	Being “superalert” or watchful or on guard?	1	2	3	4	5
PCL17	Feeling jumpy or easily startled?	1	2	3	4	5