

UMassMemorial

# Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE)<sup>1,2</sup>

Make the patient comfortable and establish rapport. Ask questions in the order listed.  
Total possible score is 30.

Maximum Score

Score

### ORIENTATION

- 5 ( ) What is the (year) (season) (date) (day) (month)?
- 5 ( ) Where are we (state) (county) (town or city) (hospital) (floor)?

### REGISTRATION

- 3 ( ) Name 3 common objects (eg, "apple," "table," "penny").  
Take 1 second to say each. Then ask the patient to repeat all 3.  
Give 1 point for each correct answer. Then repeat them until he/she learns all 3.  
Count trials and record. Trials: \_\_\_\_\_

### ATTENTION AND CALCULATION

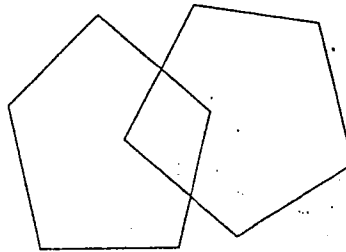
- 5 ( ) Serial 7's backwards. Stop after 5 answers.  
Alternatively, spell "WORLD" backwards. The score is the number of letters in correct order (D\_\_\_L\_\_\_R\_\_\_O\_\_\_W\_\_\_).

### RECALL

- 3 ( ) Ask for the 3 common objects named during registration above.  
Give 1 point for each correct answer. [Note: recall cannot be tested if all 3 objects were not remembered during registration.]

### LANGUAGE

- 2 ( ) Name a "pencil" and "watch." (2 points)
- 1 ( ) Repeat the following: "No ifs, ands, or buts." (1 point)
- 3 ( ) Follow a 3-stage command:  
"Take a paper in your right hand,  
fold it in half, and put it on the floor." (3 points)
- 1 ( ) Read and obey the following: CLOSE YOUR EYES (1 point)
- 1 ( ) Write a sentence. (1 point)
- 1 ( ) Copy the following design: (1 point)



Maximum Total	Suggested guideline <sup>3</sup> for determining the severity of cognitive impairment:
Total Score	Mild: MMSE ≥21
30	Moderate: MMSE 10-20
	Severe: MMSE ≤9
Expected decline in MMSE scores in untreated mild to moderate Alzheimer's patient is 2 to 4 points per year. <sup>4</sup>	

References:  
 1. Folstein MF, Folstein SE, McHugh PR. "Mini-Mental State": a practical method for grading the cognitive state of patients for the clinician. *J Psychiatr Res.* 1975;12:196-198. 2. Cockrell JR, Folstein MF. Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE). *Psychopharm Bull.* 1988;24:689-692. 3. Ferris SH, Mackell JA, Mohs R, et al. A multicenter evaluation of new treatment efficacy instruments for Alzheimer's disease clinical trials: overview and general results. *Alzheimer Dis Assoc Disord.* 1997;11(suppl 2):S1-S12. 4. Doraiswamy PM. Current cholinergic therapy for symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. *Primary Psychiatry.* 1996;3:56-68.