

# MMSE - Instructions For Administration

*Make the patient comfortable, establish rapport, and praise success.  
Ask questions in the order listed and score immediately.  
Total possible score is 30.*

## **ORIENTATION**

- (1) Ask for today's date; then ask for specific parts omitted; e.g., "Can you also tell me what season it is?"
- (2) Ask where patient lives (street and county) and where patient is now (city, state, present location).

## **REGISTRATION**

Ask patient if you may test his/her memory. The say the name of 3 objects (apple, penny, table) clearly and slowly, about one second for each. After you have said all 3, ask him/her to repeat them. This first repetition determines the score (0-3), but keep saying them until he/she can repeat all 3, up to 5 trials. Otherwise, recall cannot be meaningfully tested.

## **ATTENTION AND CALCULATION**

- (1) Ask patient to begin with 100 and subtract 7, and keep subtracting 7 from each answer until you say stop (after 5 subtractions). Score total number of correct answers (e.g., 93, 80, 73, 66, 59 = "4" correct).
- (2) Ask the patient to spell "WORLD"; if correct, ask patient to spell it backwards. Score the number of letters in correct order (e.g., DLROW = 5; DLORW = 3)
- (3) Score whichever (1) or (2) is the highest.

## **RECALL**

Ask patient if he/she can recall the 3 words you previously asked him/her to remember. Score 0-3.

## **LANGUAGE**

**Naming:** Show patient a wristwatch and ask what it is; repeat for a pencil or pen. Score 0-2

**Repetition:** Ask patient to repeat: "No ifs ands or buts". Allow only one trial. Score 0-1

**3-Stage Command:** Ask patient to do exactly as you say: "Take this paper in your right hand, fold it in two, and drop it on the floor." Score 0-3; i.e., one point for each part correctly executed.

**Reading:** Ask patients to read the sentence "CLOSE YOUR EYES" and do what it says. Score 1 point if he/she actually closes his/her eyes.

**Writing:** Ask patient to write a sentence for you. It must contain a subject and verb and be sensible. Correct grammar and punctuation are not necessary.

**Copying:** Ask patient to copy the figure of intersecting pentagons exactly as it is. All 10 angles must be present and 2 must intersect to form a 4-sided figure to score 1 point. Tremor and rotation are ignored.

## **"Simple" Clock-Drawing Test**

**Directions:** Ask patient to draw face of a clock and put the numbers in the correct position. Then ask patient to draw in the hands at a particular time (e.g., "twenty minutes after eight"). Scoring is 0-4 as indicated below. Any cut off score is subjective and arbitrary. It is unlikely that a cognitively impaired person will produce a perfect clock. A low score indicates need for further evaluation.

Draws closed circle:	Score 1 point
Includes all 12 correct numbers:	Score 1 point
Places numbers in correct positions:	Score 1 point
Places hands in correct positions:	Score 1 point