

## Global Assessment of Functioning Scale (GAF Scale)

Consider psychological, social, and occupational functioning on a hypothetical continuum of mental health-illness. Do not include impairment in functioning due to physical (or environmental) limitations.

**Note:** Use intermediate codes when appropriate, e.g., 45, 68, 72.

### Code

- 90 Absent or minimal symptoms (e.g., mild anxiety before an exam), good functioning in  
| all areas, interested and involved in a wide range of activities, socially effective,  
81 generally satisfied with life, no more than everyday problems or concerns (e.g., an  
occasional argument with family members).
- 80 If symptoms are present, they are transient and expectable reactions to psychosocial  
| stressors (e.g., difficulty concentrating after family argument); no more than slight  
71 impairment in social, occupational, or school functioning (e.g., temporarily falling  
behind in school work).
- 70 Some mild symptoms (e.g., depressed mood and mild insomnia) OR some difficulty in  
| social, occupational, or school functioning (e.g., occasional truancy, or theft within the  
61 household), but generally functioning pretty well, has some meaningful interpersonal  
relationships.
- 60 Moderate symptoms (e.g., flat affect and circumstantial speech, occasional panic  
| attacks) OR moderate difficulty in social, occupational, or school functioning (e.g., few  
51 friends, conflicts with co-workers).
- 50 Serious symptoms (e.g., suicidal ideation, severe obsessional rituals, frequent  
| shoplifting) OR any serious impairment in social, occupational, or school functioning  
41 (e.g., no friends, unable to keep a job).
- 40 Some impairment in reality testing or communication (e.g., speech is at times illogical,  
| obscure, or irrelevant) OR major impairment in several areas, such as work or school,  
family relations, judgment, thinking, or mood (e.g., depressed man avoids friends,  
neglects family, and is unable to work; child frequently beats up younger children, is  
31 defiant at home, and is failing at school).
- 30 Behavior is considerably influenced by delusions or hallucinations OR serious  
| impairment in communication or judgment (e.g., sometimes incoherent, acts grossly  
inappropriately, suicidal preoccupation) OR inability to function in almost all areas  
21 (e.g., stays in bed all day; no job, home, or friends).
- 20 Some danger of hurting self or others (e.g., suicide attempts without clear expectation of  
| death, frequently violent, manic excitement) OR occasionally fails to maintain minimal  
personal hygiene (e.g., smears feces) OR gross impairment in communication  
11 (e.g., largely incoherent or mute).
- 10 Persistent danger of severely hurting self or others (e.g., recurrent violence) OR  
| persistent inability to maintain minimal personal hygiene OR serious suicidal act with  
1 clear expectation of death.