

OPIOID RISK SCREENING TOOL (ORT)

Used for all patients with persistent pain before commencing an opioid, to screen for potential aberrant behaviours.

Indicator		Mark the score	Score if female	Score if male
Family history of substance abuse:				
	Alcohol		1	3
	Illegal drugs		2	3
	Prescription drugs		4	4
Personal history of substance abuse:				
	Alcohol		3	3
	Illegal drugs		4	4
	Prescription drugs		5	5
Age 16-45 yrs			1	1
Personal history of preadolescent sexual abuse			3	0
Psychological disease:				
	Attention deficit disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, bipolar, or schizophrenia		2	2
	Depression		1	1
TOTAL			---	---

Total risk score category:

Low	0-3
Medium	4-7
High	≥ 8

Reference: South Med J. 2007;100(10):1028-1036. © 2007 Lippincott Williams & Wilkins

An excerpt from Hunter New England Health website at <http://www.hnehealth.nsw.gov.au/> states:

Screening

- i. The Opioid Risk Tool (ORT) assesses risk of aberrant opioid-related behaviours. Risk is classified as low, moderate or high. It is recommended that the ORT is used to screen all persistent pain patients in whom opioid therapy is considered.
- ii. If patients score high or moderate risk on ORT, then contact with the Australian Medicare Prescription Shopping Information Service (1800 631 181) is recommended to check for previous excessive medication use. [GPs need to register firstly by filling out a form and faxing it to Medicare, before accessing the service].
- iii. In general opioids should not be prescribed to persistent pain patients scoring high risk on ORT. Any proposed variation to this rule should be discussed with a Pain Medicine or Addiction Medicine Specialist prior to commencement of opioid therapy.