Psychiatric Mental Status Exam (MSE) Checklist

10-domain structured examination — appearance through insight

Document each domain using the descriptors below. This checklist structures the MSE for consistency across providers and audit defensibility.

Examiner: _____

1 Appearance

Grooming, dress, hygiene, apparent age, build, posture

Findings:

2 Behavior / Psychomotor

Activity level, eye contact, mannerisms, tics, cooperation

Findings:

3 Speech

Rate, volume, tone, articulation, spontaneity, latency

Findings:

4 Mood (subjective)

Patient's stated emotional state in their own words

Findings:

5 Affect (objective)

Range, reactivity, congruence with mood, appropriateness

Findings:

6 Thought Process

Goal-directedness, tangentiality, circumstantiality, loose associations

Findings:

7 Thought Content

Obsessions, delusions, SI/HI, guilt, worthlessness

Findings:

8 Perception

Hallucinations, illusions, depersonalization, derealization

Findings:

9 Cognition

Orientation, attention, memory, executive function

Findings:

10 Insight & Judgment

Awareness of illness, treatment adherence, decision-making

Findings:

Clinical Impression & Signature

Impression

Signature: _____

Date: _____