# PhenX Toolkit Supplemental Information

**Domain:** Early Psychosis  
**Release Date:**  
**Negative Psychosis Symptoms**

## About the Measure

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Early Psychosis</th>
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<tr>
<td>Measure</td>
<td>Negative Psychosis Symptoms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Definition</td>
<td>An interviewer-administered questionnaire to determine the severity of negative symptoms of psychosis and schizophrenia.</td>
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## About the Protocol

**Description of Protocol**
The four-item Negative Symptom Assessment (NSA-4) is a clinician-administered instrument that rates behaviors including restricted speech and reduced emotion, social drive, and interests. Each item is rated on a 7-point scale: 1 = Behavior is not reduced compared with a healthy young person; 2 = Behavior is minimally reduced; significance is questionable; 3 = Behavior is mildly reduced, 4 = Behavior is moderately reduced; 5 = Behavior is markedly reduced and definitely interferes with subject's functioning; 6 = Behavior is severely reduced or entirely absent; it is glaring and markedly interferes with functioning; and 9 = behavior not ratable. The ratings from the individual items can be added together to yield a global score for negative symptoms, with higher score indicating more severe symptoms.

**Protocol Text**

1. Restricted speech quantity  
   1. Normal speech quantity  
   2. Minimal reduction in quantity; may be extreme side of normal  
   3. Speech quantity is reduced, but more obtained with minimal prodding  
   4. Flow of speech is maintained only by regularly prodding  
   5. Responses usually limited to a few words, and/or detail is only obtained by prodding or bribing  
   6. Responses usually nonverbal or limited to 1 or 2 words despite efforts to elicit more  
   9. Not ratable  

2. Emotion: Reduced range (specify time frame for this assessment)  
   1. Normal range of emotion  
   2. Minimal reduction in range; may be extreme side of normal  
   3. Range seems restricted relative to a normal person, but during the specified time period subject convincingly reports at least four emotions  
   4. Subject convincingly identifies two or three emotional experiences  
   5. Subject can convincingly identify only one emotional experience  
   6. Subject reports little or no emotional range  
   9. Not ratable  

3. Reduced social drive  
   1. Normal social drive  
   2. Minimal reduction in social drive; may be extreme side of normal
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| 3. Desire for social interactions seems somewhat reduced |
| 4. Obvious reduction in desire to initiate social contacts, but a number of social contacts are initiated each week |
| 5. Marked reduction in desire to initiate social contacts, but a few contacts are maintained at subject’s initiation (as with family) |
| 6. No desire to initiate any social interactions |
| 9. Not ratable |

| 4. Reduced interests  
1. Normal interests  
2. Minimal reduction in interests; may be extreme side of normal  
3. Range of interests and/or commitment to them seems diminished  
4. Range of interests is clearly diminished and subject is not particularly committed to interests held  
5. Only one or two interests reported, and these pursued superficially  
6. Little or nothing stimulates interest  
9. Not ratable |

**Scoring:**  
The ratings from the individual items can be added together to yield a global score for negative symptoms, with higher score indicating more severe symptoms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Adults, ages 18 years and older</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rationale for Inclusion in Supplemental Information</strong></td>
<td>The four-item Negative Symptom Assessment (NSA-4) provides unique and valuable information about restricted speech and reduced emotion, social drive, and interests. The Early Psychosis Working Group recommends obtaining this dataset wherever possible. However, the NSA-4 overlaps with elements of the Structured Clinical Interview for the <em>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders</em>, 5th edition (DSM-5) and the Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS). Therefore, this measure is more appropriate for inclusion as Supplemental Information instead of in the PhenX Toolkit.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Source</strong></td>
<td>Alphs, L., Morlock, R., Coon, C., Van Willigenburg, A., &amp; Panagides J. (2010). The 4-item Negative Symptom Assessment (NSA-4) instrument: A simple tool for evaluating negative symptoms in schizophrenia following brief training. <em>Psychiatry (Edgemont)</em>, 7(7), 26–32.</td>
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<td><strong>Language of Source</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
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<td><strong>Personnel and Training Required</strong></td>
<td>The interviewer should be trained in the administration of the Negative Symptom Assessment. The interviewer must be trained and found to be competent (i.e., tested by an expert) at the completion of personal interviews. The interviewer should be trained to prompt respondents further if a “don't know” response is provided.</td>
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<td><strong>Equipment Needs</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
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### Protocol Type
- **Clinician-administered interview**

### General References

### Process and Review
The External Review Panel has not reviewed this measure yet.