Name: _____ Age:_____ Sex:_____ Date: _____

Cornell Scale for Depression in Dementia

Ratings should be based on symptoms and signs occurring during the week before interview. No score should be given if symptoms result from physical disability or illness.

SCORING SYSTEM

a = Unable to evaluate 0 = Absent 1 = Mild to Intermittent 2 = Severe

Score greater than 12 = Probable Depression

	a	0	1	2
A. MOOD-RELATED SIGNS				
1. Anxiety; anxious expression, rumination, worrying				
2. Sadness; sad expression, sad voice, tearfulness				
3. Lack of reaction to pleasant events				
4. Irritability; annoyed, short tempered				
B. BEHAVIORAL DISTURBANCE	**a**	**0**	**1**	**2**
5. Agitation; restlessness, hand wringing, hair pulling				
6. Retardation; slow movements, slow speech, slow reactions				
7. Multiple physical complaints (score 0 if gastrointestinal symptoms only)				
8. Loss of interest; less involved in usual activities (score 0 only if change occurred acutely, i.e., in less than one month)				
C. PHYSICAL SIGNS	**a**	**0**	**1**	**2**
9. Appetite loss; eating less than usual				
10. Weight loss (score 2 if greater than 5 pounds in one month)				
11. Lack of energy; fatigues easily, unable to sustain activities				
D. CYCLIC FUNCTIONS				
12. Diurnal variation of mood; symptoms worse in the morning				
13. Difficulty falling asleep; later than usual for this individual				
14. Multiple awakenings during sleep				
15. Early morning awakening; earlier than usual for this individual				
E. IDEATIONAL DISTURBANCE				
16. Suicidal; feels life is not worth living				
17. Poor self-esteem; self-blame, self-depreciation, feelings of failure				
18. Pessimism; anticipation of the worst				
19. Mood congruent delusions; delusions of poverty, illness or loss				

Notes/Current Medications:

Assessor:

Score

Instruction for use: (Cornell Dementia Depression Assessment Tool)

1. The same CNA (certified nursing assistant) should conduct the interviewed each time to assure consistency in the response.
2. The assessment should be based on the patient's normal weekly routine.
3. If uncertain of answers, questioning other caregivers may further define the answer.
4. Answer all questions by placing a check in the column under the appropriately numbered answer. (a=unable to evaluate, 0=absent, 1=mild to intermittent, 2=severe).
5. Add the total score for all numbers checked for each question.
6. Place the total score in the "SCORE" box and record any subjective observation notes in the "Notes/Current Medications" section.
7. Scores totaling twelve (12) points or more indicate probable depression.

Alexopoulos GA, Abrams RC, Young RC, Shamoian CA. Cornell scale for depression in dementia. *Biol Psych* 1988;23:271-284.