Available April 1, 2016: New Adult SASSI-4

The SASSI Institute has always been dedicated to bringing customers reliable, up-to-date electronic product formats. Our computer software was first introduced to customers in 1994. Over the years, we have released software updates to keep up with the improvements to our instruments, as well as the evolution of computers. The digital world has changed tremendously since 1994. For that reason, as of April 1st, 2016, we will no longer be selling computer software and instead begin transitioning customers to our internet-based software available at www.SASSIOnline.com. SASSI Online is user-friendly, and an up-to-date electronic product that will allow us to continue offering a fully functional resource for computerized scoring and interpretation.

The SASSI-4 will be available through SASSI Online.

Existing software customers will be able to continue purchasing activations for their software until we are no longer able to support the product due to changes in the PC world. Type 1 software customers will be pleased to find the online system very similar to what they have been using and the transition should be very smooth. We will also be offering a paper delivery option to assist Type 2 software users with the transition. This option will allow you to print out the SASSI questionnaires from SASSIOnline.com, administer it to your client, and then enter client’s responses into the online system through our user-friendly questionnaire entry feature. Scantron customers will be happy to hear that we are currently developing a new feature that integrates scanned forms with our SASSI Online system. Our goal for Scantron SASSI Online release is the end of 2016; however, we hope to have it available sooner.

Our friendly Technical Support team is happy to assist customers with this transition, as well as to answer any questions you may have. We will also provide a free demo so you can experience SASSI Online for yourself. Contact us at 888-251-4147 or techsupport@sassi.com. We are confident you will be pleased with what you see.

SASSI Computer Software Update

The SASSI-4 screens for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) along the full DSM-5 continuum of severity: mild, moderate, and severe SUD. It integrates scanned forms with our SASSI Online system. Our goal for Scantron SASSI Online release is the end of 2016; however, we hope to have it available sooner.

New Adult SASSI-4

The SASSI-4 screens for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) along the full DSM-5 continuum of severity: mild, moderate, and severe. A new brief scale, Prescription Drug (Rx), was added to accurately identify individuals likely to be abusing prescription medications. Read a full sample assessment report on Angela T. in the SASSI-4 User Guide & Manual.

Angela T. illustrates a profile often seen in people who acknowledge that they use drugs excessively and have come to rely on them as a coping resource. Angela’s scores on the SASSI-4 meet the criteria for classification as having a high probability of a substance use disorder. Angela’s score on the Rx scale also indicates a high probability of prescription drug abuse. Reviewing her score scales reveals openness in disclosing her use of drugs and alcohol. On FVOD and SYM, Angela acknowledges extensive use of drugs and many negative consequences and symptoms of abuse. Examining her answers to specific items on these scales may help you counsel Angela, and may suggest good starting points for a more detailed history of her use of alcohol, drugs, and prescription medications.

ON SYM Angelo acknowledges serious substance misuse that she acknowledges resulted in making her problems worse, increased tolerance, excessive use, and wishing she could cut down her use of substances. Her OAT score is in the average range, which can indicate that Angela does not necessarily align herself with those characteristics associated with substance abusers and she may not see herself as a ‘drug addict.’ With her Prescription Drug scale (Rx) score of 6, it is useful to look at those individual items as well.

Angela’s moderate DEF score suggests she can be open and realistic in acknowledging her difficulties and substance misuse. The rest of her scores fall within the normal range, between the 15th and 85th percentiles.

Given Angela’s high level of drug use and consequences, you might consider a more comprehensive evaluation to determine whether she can maintain sobriety and function well enough to benefit from a treatment program. She may need supervised detoxification or other intensive intervention.

You may find Angela able to acknowledge that she uses drugs frequently and perhaps that she drinks to excess. However, she may not see that her behavior varies dramatically from others who don’t have a substance use disorder. Feedback on where her scores fall on the profile sheet may help her see that her behaviors are not typical. Examining the items that Angela endorsed on the FVA, FVOD, SYM, and Rx scales may provide useful insight into her motivations for using and help her see the consequences that result from her use. Angela may need your help to acknowledge her pain and to recognize that there are alternatives to her current lifestyle.

High Probability of having a Substance Use Disorder

Check if Rx is 5 or more. __ High Probability of Prescription Drug Abuse

Available April 1, 2016: New Adult SASSI-4

The SASSI CEO, Research Director, Board of Directors and staff are proud to announce the formal release of the newest assessment tool within our product line: The SASSI-4. This project has taken several years of diligent research & developmental and the research department at the SASSI Institute placed a lot of careful time and consideration into what additional elements the SASSI could offer clinicians to support their efforts to properly screen and treat clients with substance use disorders. The research study in its entirety will be available soon: Lazzowski, L.E., & Geary, B.B. (in press). Validation of the Adult Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory-4 (SASSI-4). European Journal of Psychological Assessment.

WHAT IS NEW ABOUT THE SASSI-4

The SASSI-4 screens for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) along the full DSM-5 continuum of severity: mild, moderate, and severe SUD. If counselors have clients who they think are in the early stages of an SUD or have a mild SUD, the SASSI-4 is validated to screen for that level of severity.

The SASSI-4 does not mistakenly identify individuals experiencing other cognitive, somatic, or psychological symptoms with high probability of SUD screening outcomes. In addition, when individuals are experiencing symptoms of both SUD and other psychological disorders (i.e., are dual diagnosis clients), SASSI-4 SUD screening outcomes are highly accurate for SUD. It can accurately identify the presence and the absence of SUD, even when other psychological symptoms are present.

Although they have been somewhat modified, all the scales that were on the SASSI-3 are included on the SASSI-4 — FVA, FVOD, SYM, OAT, SAT, DEF, SAM, FAM, COR, and RAP. Additional items were added to the face valid scales to identify symptoms represented in the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria and items were added to the subtle scale, SAT, to enhance SUD identification. The SASSI-4 also includes a brief new scale, Prescription Drug Scale (Rx) that accurately identifies individuals likely to be abusing prescription medications.

A detailed User Guide & Manual will be available at the release which provides step-by-step instructions for administering, scoring, and interpreting the instrument. The User Guide & Manual also contains a comprehensive section on the research & validation of the instrument.

We feel confident that you and your clients will benefit from the changes and improvements that went into the SASSI-4. The customer service, research, training, and clinical staff welcome you to contact them to answer questions and assist you with your transition to the SASSI-4.