

SEVERITY OF DEPENDENCE SCALE (SDS)

Adapted from:

Gossop, M., Darke, S., Griffiths, P., Hando, J., Powis, B., Hall, W., Strang, J. (1995). The Severity of Dependence Scale (SDS): psychometric properties of the SDS in English and Australian samples of heroin, cocaine and amphetamine users. *Addiction* 90(5): 607-614.

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The following questions are about your drug use prior to commencing treatment. For each of the five questions, please indicate the most appropriate response, as it applied to your drug use in the month prior to starting treatment.

[Note: Give Response Card to participant. When reading out the questions below, replace “(drug)” with the name of the principal opiate for which treatment is currently being received, e.g. heroin, opium, etc.]

	Never/ almost never	Sometimes	Often	Always/ nearly always
1. Do you think your use of (drug) was out of control?	0	1	2	3
2. Did the prospect of missing a fix (or dose) make you anxious or worried?	0	1	2	3
3. Did you worry about your use of (drug)?	0	1	2	3
4. Did you wish you could stop?	0	1	2	3

	Not difficult	Quite difficult	Very difficult	Impossible
5. How difficult did you find it to stop or go without (drug)?	0	1	2	3

SDS TOTAL: _____

Response Card

SDS

(Questions 1 - 4)

Never/almost never

Sometimes

Often

Always/nearly always

(Question 5)

Not difficult

Quite difficult

Very difficult

Impossible