

San Mateo County Mental Health Services
Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale (AIMS)
To Determine Tardive Dyskinesia Symptoms

- Either before or after completing the examination procedure, observe the patient unobtrusively at rest (e.g., in waiting room).
- The chair to be used in this examination should be a hard, firm one without arms.
- After observing the patient, he may be rated on a scale of (0 none), 1 (minimal), 2 (mild), 3 (moderate), and 4 (severe) according to the severity of symptoms.
- Ask the patient whether there is anything in his/her mouth (i.e., gum, candy, etc.) and if there is, to remove it.
- Ask patient about the current condition of his/her teeth. Ask patient if he/she wears dentures. Do teeth or dentures bother patient now?
- Ask patient whether he/she notices any movement in mouth, face, hands, or feet. If yes, ask to describe and to what extent they currently bother patient or interfere with his/her activities.

For the specific items:

1. Have patient sit in chair with hands on knees, legs slightly apart and feet flat on floor. (Look at entire body for movements while in this position.)
2. Ask patient to sit with hands hanging unsupported. If male, between legs, if female and wearing a dress, hanging over knees. (Observe hands and other body areas.)
3. Ask patient to open mouth. (Observe tongue at rest within mouth.) Do this twice.
4. Ask patient to protrude tongue. (Observe abnormalities of tongue movement.) Do this twice.
5. Ask the patient to tap thumb, with each finger, as rapidly as possible for 10 - 15 seconds; separately with right hand, then with left hand. (Observe facial and leg movements.)
6. Flex and extend patient's left and right arms (One at a time.)
7. Ask patient to stand up. (Observe in profile. Observe all body areas again, hips included.)
8. Ask patient to extend both arms outstretched in front with palms down. (Observe trunk, legs and mouth.)
9. Have patient walk a few paces, turn and walk back to chair. (Observe hands and gait.) Do this twice.

