The Psychosocial Assessment Tool (PAT) is a brief parent report screener of psychosocial risk in pediatric health. Using a social ecological framework, PAT allows for identification of a family’s areas of risk and resiliency across multiple domains (e.g., family structure and resources, family problems, social support, child problems, acute stress, sibling problems). PAT is based on the Pediatric Psychosocial Preventative Health Model (Kazak, 2006) which provides a tri-level determination of family risk (Universal, Targeted, Clinical) based on the total PAT score. Level of risk has implications for treatment recommendations to support family adaptation and address problems.

PAT was developed in pediatric cancer and is currently used in approximately 60 pediatric cancer programs in the United States. PAT has also been adapted for use in other pediatric conditions, with published reports in Sickle Cell Disease and kidney transplantation. The PAT is currently being used in approximately 50 sites with other pediatric conditions. Internal reliability for the PAT total score is 0.81 (0.62 – 0.81 for subscales). Content validity of the subscales is strong and consistent with theoretically similar measures. Strong specificity and sensitivity to detect clinically significant problems were found (Pai et al., 2008). The PAT can be administered shortly after diagnosis (Kazak et al., 2011) and is predictive of later psychosocial difficulties (Alderfer et al., 2009). PAT is available in English and Spanish and has also been adapted for use in other languages and other English-speaking countries (e.g., Barrera et al., 2013; McCarthy et al., 2008). There are a number of research projects underway on the PAT in North America and internationally. The PAT can be administered as a paper and pencil measure, using REDCap (for research purposes only), or as a web-based measure. The web-based format has the capability to automatically score the PAT and generate reports (red flag and trauma risk) that support timely feedback to families.

PAT has also been integrated into electronic health records at some institutions.


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For information about PAT and its use email us at PsychosocialAssessmentTool@nemours.org or visit our website at www.PsychosocialAssessmentTool.org