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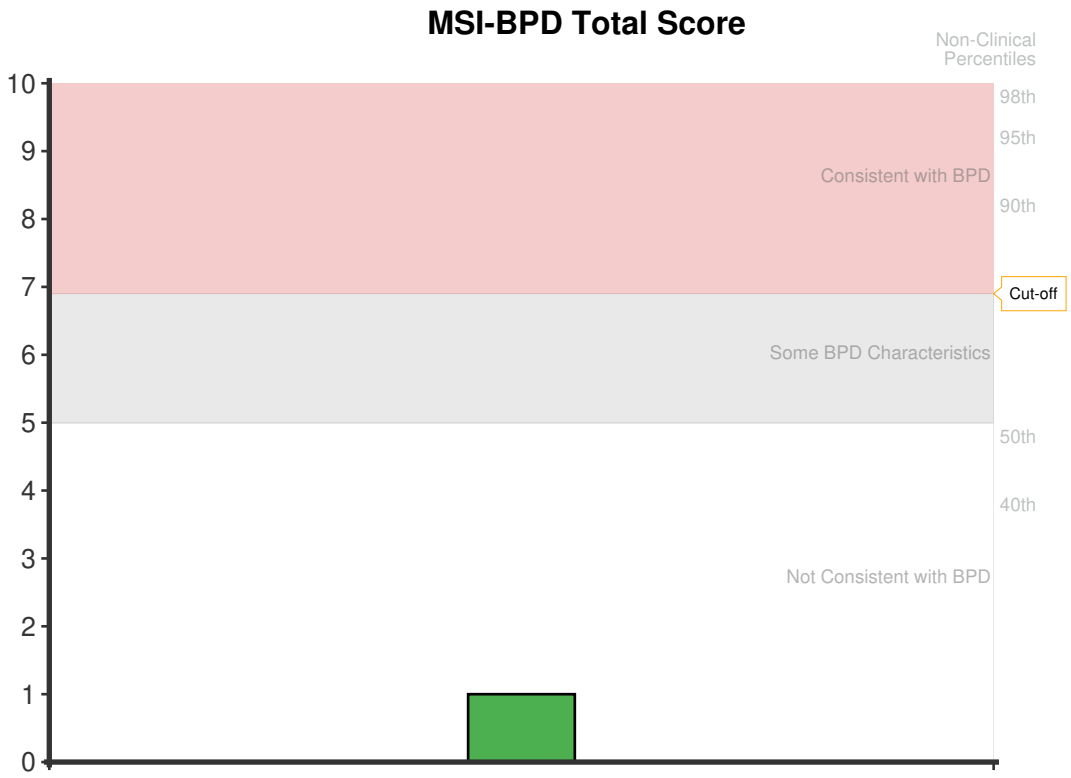
McLean Screening Instrument for BPD (MSI-BPD)

Client Name	Generic Client	*Date administered*	1 Oct 2025
Date of birth (age)	1 Jan 1999 (26)	*Time taken*	1 min 1s
Assessor	Dr Emerson Bartholomew		

Results

	Score	Non-Clinical Percentile	Above Cut-off?
Total (0-10)	1	7	No



Interpretation

The McLean Screening Instrument for BPD (MSI-BPD) was administered on 01 October 2025. The client's total score of 1 falls below the screening threshold. This response pattern is not consistent with borderline personality presentations and suggests the client does not currently endorse symptoms characteristic of BPD.

The client endorsed 1 out of 10 items, which falls at the 7th percentile compared to a non-clinical sample; they endorsed symptoms corresponding to 1 of the 9 DSM-5 criteria for BPD. Endorsed criteria include: troubled relationships (*Item 1, Criterion 2: unstable interpersonal relationships*).

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Scoring and Interpretation Information

MSI-BPD Total Score

Each item is rated on a dichotomous scale with 1 corresponding to “present” and 0 corresponding to “absent”. The total score ranges from 0 to 10.

MSI-BPD Clinical Cut-off

A score of 7 or greater is above the traditional cutoff for BPD screening (Zanarini et al., 2003). A score of 5 or 6 suggests BPD cannot be ruled out and further evaluation is recommended, as research indicates 19% of individuals with BPD score below 7 (Zanarini et al., 2003; Zimmerman & Balling, 2021). Scores of 4 or less indicate that symptom levels are not consistent with BPD.

MSI-BPD Percentiles

A percentile is presented that compares the respondent’s score to a university sample of 235 US students (55% female; mean age 18.5 years; Klonsky & Glenn, 2009). This non-clinical comparison group had a mean score of 4.83 (SD = 2.64). A percentile rank close to 50 indicates the score is typical for this comparison sample. Percentile labels are displayed on the right side of the graph for reference.

MSI-BPD Plots

On first administration, a bar graph displaying the total score is presented. When the assessment is administered multiple times, a longitudinal line graph is generated to track changes in the total score over time.

Each endorsed item on the MSI-BPD corresponds to a specific DSM-5 criterion and provides clinically meaningful information for treatment planning. Clinicians are encouraged to review which items were endorsed to identify specific symptom areas that may be most relevant for intervention. The pattern of endorsed items can help guide therapeutic focus and inform case conceptualisation.

Client Responses

		Yes	No
1	Have any of your closest relationships been troubled by a lot of arguments or repeated breakups?	**1**	**0**
2	Have you deliberately hurt yourself physically (e.g. punched yourself, cut yourself, burned yourself)? How about made a suicide attempt?	**1**	**0**
3	Have you had at least two other problems with impulsivity (e.g. eating binges and spending sprees, drinking too much and verbal outbursts)?	**1**	**0**
4	Have you been extremely moody?	**1**	**0**

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Client Responses (cont.)

		Yes	No
5	Have you felt very angry a lot of the time? How about often acted in an angry or sarcastic manner?	1	0
6	Have you often been distrustful of other people?	1	0
7	Have you frequently felt unreal or as if things around you were unreal?	1	0
8	Have you chronically felt empty?	1	0
9	Have you often felt that you had no idea of who you are or that you have no identity?	1	0
10	Have you made desperate efforts to avoid feeling abandoned or being abandoned (e.g., repeatedly called someone to reassure yourself that he or she still cared, begged them not to leave you, clung to them physically)?	1	0