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**CALCULATE A GAF  
USING THE KENNEDY  
AXIS V**  
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This is the first significant change in the Kennedy Axis V (K Axis) since the release of the current version in 2003. This does not change the individual subscales. It is simply a way to use the K Axis' subscales to easily calculate a GAF (GAF K).

This method for calculation the GAF is extremely simple and can be done almost instantly once the K Axis has been rated. To calculate the GAF (GAF K), one simply selects the lowest K Axis score from the first four K Axis subscales/domains (Psychological Impairment, Social Skills, Violence and ADL-Occupational Skills). This should give you a GAF rating that should be essentially the same as a GAF determined by the method recommended in the DSM-IV; however, it should be a lot easier to explain your GAF rating because one can better understand how the rating was derived. This can be very useful when trying to justify admission, discharge, billing, etc.

We would appreciate your feedback on this method for determining the GAF (GAF K), including whether you find that it is an effective method to determine a GAF score.

**KENNEDY AXIS V
GLOBAL SCORES**
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The K Axis is an excellent outcome measure; however, the feature that places the K Axis beyond other clinical instruments is its ability to generate global scores in areas that are the heart of psychiatry. These global scores can greatly facilitate communication and information management. With the addition of the ability to generate a GAF (GAF K), this brings the number of global scores to 10.

These 10 global measures are as follows:

- 1) Psychological Impairment
- 2) Social Skills
- 3) Violence
- 4) ADL-Occupational Impairment
- 5) Substance Abuse
- 6) Medical Impairment
- 7) Ancillary Impairment (Environmental stress, financial difficulties, legal problems, etc.)
- 8) GAF (GAF K)
- 9) GAF Equivalent (Global Functioning Score)
- 10) Dangerousness Level (Global Dangerousness Score)

Because these global scores follow a scoring continuum (5-100 points) that is very similar to DSM-IV's Axis V, most clinicians when informed of one of these global scores will instantly know the severity of the client's impairment in that area. This allows for quick and effective communication

among clinicians about a patient's status in critical areas. This also allows for easy communication with administrators, as well as individuals authorizing reimbursement for services provided. This ultimately leads to better patient care and more effective and efficient reimbursement for that care.

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**COPY OF THE
KENNEDY AXIS V
(VERSION 1.3)**
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If you have a copy of the previous version of the K Axis, you can use it to determine the 10 global scores; however, the latest version of the K Axis (Version 1.3) has the instructions for calculating the GAF (GAF K) on the instrument itself. If you would like the new version of the K Axis (Version 1.3), you can go to [www.kennedymd.com](http://www.kennedymd.com) to request a free electronic copy or you can make a request directly via email to [DrJKennedy@aol.com](mailto:DrJKennedy@aol.com)

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Best Wishes,  
The Staff at KennedyMD.com

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