***Maudsley 3-item Visual Analogue Scale (M3VAS)***

**Outline of *M3VAS* rationale and scoring instructions:**

1. The Maudsley 3-item Visual Analogue Scales attempt to operationalise current level of severity and level of treatment response for 3 core depressive symptoms: depressed mood, anhedonia, and suicidality.

2. The operationalisation is a horizontal line, 100 mm in length, anchored by short descriptions at each end to define what the extremes of the scale represent.

3. The patient is asked to indicate on the line the point that they feel better represents the perception of their current state (for M3VAS-Current) or the degree of their experienced change (for M3VAS-Change) in relation to the two extremes.

4. To enable patients optimally convey their subjective experience on a continuum, numeric values were not included on the answer sheet (here only included as scoring indicators).

5. Responses for each item can be quantified:  
a. M3VAS-Current: 0-100 score range, where 0 represents complete absence of a particular symptom and 100 extreme intensity/severity of a symptom.  
b. M3VAS-Change: -50 – +50 score range, where the minus end represents negative change since study initiation and plus end positive change.

6. A total score for each scale can be computed by adding the scores of the 3 items:  
a. Total score range for M3VAS-Current: 0 – 300  
b. Total score range for M3VAS-Change: -150 – +150

7. For the pen-and-paper version, the score for each item can be simply determined by measuring in millimetres from the left-hand end of the line to the point that the patient marked.   
- In the case that a patient’s mark falls in the space between two millimetres, the score of the nearest one is selected.   
- If the distance of the mark from both millimetres is even, the score should be rounded to the upper millimetre.  
Therefore, the use of a ruler is recommended for that process.

This visual analogue scale is thought to be more sensitive to mood changes than other categorical measures (e.g. Hamilton or IDS scales) and is therefore suggested for mood monitoring purposes in clinical trials.