

## Psychosis

This section has questions for both clients/patients and informants

Questions to [P] start from a position where the symptom has already been mentioned during the interview. Direct initial questions (e.g. 'Do you hear voices?') are not provided for [P] because experience has shown that such questions frequently lead to misidentification of symptoms. If [P] experiences psychotic phenomena, efforts should be made to get him or her to give as much detail as possible about what s/he experiences, and then to code it as appropriate.

Psychotic phenomena are such personal experiences that [P's] own account is the only certain basis for diagnosis. For this reason, much more weight is given to [P's] own responses than to those of the informant.

Use the appropriate question depending on what [P] has said

### Auditory hallucinations

#### Can you tell me what you hear?

*Do you hear people talking about you? Do you think they are real?*

*Do you think they are pretend/imaginary?*

If [P] hears sounds but not voices:

*Tell me about [sounds] you hear*

*What do you hear?*

*Where do they come from? When do you hear them?*

If [P] hears voices:

#### Who is talking?

*Where do the voice(s) come from?*

*When do you hear the voice(s)?*

*Do you hear them during the day? Do you hear them at night?*

*Do you hear them when you are waking up?*

*Do you hear them when you are falling asleep? Do you hear the voice(s) every day?*

#### Item 37: Auditory hallucinations

Not clearly differentiated from imagination, fantasy, or self-talk.

Is clearly differentiated from imagination, fantasy or self-talk.

The symptom is clearly present, frequent, intrusive and includes a credible verbal report by [P].

If you have rated voices as present, tick all relevant circumstances on the voices checklist.

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Psychotic symptoms should already have been probed at the beginning of the interview

Remind the informant about the things they mentioned

If you wish to probe again, ask:

Does [P] ever seem to hear things when there is nobody about?

*.. see things when there is nothing there?*

*.. feel things touching them?*

*.. smell things than nobody else can?*

*Does s/he have any strange beliefs?*

Use the appropriate question depending on what [P] has said

### Auditory hallucinations

#### What do you think [P] hears?

*How often does [P] hear it/them?*

*Does s/he hear it/them at a particular time of day?*

If [P] hears voices:

*How many voices are there?*

*Do you know who the voices are?*

*Are the voices of people known to [P]? Are they strangers?*

*Do the voices talk to each other? What do they say?*

*Do they say pleasant or unpleasant things? Does [P] tell them to go away?'*

*Is [P] distressed by the voices?*

#### Item 37: Auditory hallucinations

Not clearly differentiated from imagination, fantasy, or self-talk.

Informant report shows symptom clearly differentiated from imagination, and either:  
a) [P] is constantly preoccupied with symptom; or  
b) symptom is present at some time during most days

The symptom is clearly present, frequent, intrusive and includes a credible verbal report by [P].

If you have rated voices as present, tick all relevant circumstances on the voices checklist.