

# Motivation Assessment Scale

## (Durand & Crimmins, 1992)

### What does it assess?

- Functions of behaviours of concern - includes attention, sensory/ non-social, tangible, and escape.

### Who is it suitable for?

- Designed for children or adults with developmental disabilities.
- May be useful for adults with ABI.

### How is it administered?

- Carers complete the scale and provide a rating for each item.
- Can be administered in an interview format

### How is it scored/ interpreted?

- A speech pathologist, psychologist or other professional scores the items to determine the functions of each behaviour identified as a BOC.
- Any ambiguities or unclear patterns can be resolved by direct observation of the person in situations thought to initiate the behaviour (i.e., hypothesis testing).

### What is its availability?

- Available for purchase from <https://www2.monacoassociates.com/secureorder/> \$US79 for 25 forms and Guide, \$US25 for additional packs of 25
- Score sheets are copyright protected

### How does it contribute to a communication assessment for someone with behaviours of concern?

- Identifying the functions of behaviours of concern.
- Must be used after the behaviours of concern have been clearly identified – for people with ABI, this can be done using the Overt Behaviour Scale (see Fact sheet for a complementary assessment for ABI).
- Behaviours with attention, tangible and escape functions can be replaced by teaching appropriate communication (determined from a communication assessment).
- Behaviours with sensory/ non-social functions may need to be further explored using an environmental assessment.

### References

- Durand, V. M., & Crimmins, D. B. (1988). Identifying the variables maintaining self-injurious behavior. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 18, 99-117.
- Zarcone, J. R., Rodgers, T. A., Iwata, B. A., Rourke, D. A., & et al. (1991). Reliability analysis of the Motivation Assessment Scale: A failure to replicate. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 12(4), 349-360.
- Singh, N. N., Donatelli, L. S., Best, A., Williams, D. E., Barrera, F. J., Lenz, M. W., et al. (1993). Factor structure of the Motivation Assessment Scale. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, 37(1), 65-74.