

SASSI Documentation Cheat Sheet

Reviewed by the BastionGPT Clinical Advisory Board · September 2026 · Reproduces no items, scoring rules, or profiles

The SASSI is a proprietary self-report screen from The SASSI Institute: the Adult SASSI-4 and Adolescent SASSI-A3 combine face-valid scales, subtle scales, and validity indicators under publisher decision rules to return a high or low probability of a substance use disorder. It is a screen, never a diagnosis: low does not rule a disorder out and high does not show current use. Defensible charting names the edition, mode, and time frame, states validity in words, reports the category in the publisher's terms with its limits, and rests the conclusion on interview and collateral.

Edition, form, and mode SASSI-4 adult, SASSI-A3 adolescent, Spanish SASSI

Do: name the instrument, language, and how it was given (paper with the publisher's key, SASSI Online, audio) and who proctored it.

Pitfall: SASSI administered with no edition, or a SASSI-3 handout applied to a SASSI-4 result.

Time frame and referral the evaluator chooses the frame

Do: state the frame given for the face-valid items (lifetime, past 12 months, since a date) and the referral source and question.

Pitfall: a category with no time frame, so nobody can tell lifetime denial from denial since the arrest.

Reading and accommodations fourth- to fifth-grade demand

Do: record how reading was confirmed, audio use, questions asked and handled without rephrasing, interpreter or fatigue issues.

Pitfall: a literacy problem scored as a valid profile, or an item paraphrased to help and written into the note.

Validity, in words RAP or VAL, then response style

Do: name the publisher's validity check, completeness, and your conclusion; describe defensiveness as a hypothesis, never as lying.

Pitfall: valid profile with nothing behind it, or T scores and cutoffs copied from the platform report.

Category, publisher's terms High or Low Probability of a SUD

Do: write the classification exactly as reported, then its limits: screen, not diagnosis; low does not rule out; high is not current use.

Pitfall: SASSI positive: alcohol dependence, or Low Probability charted as no substance problem identified.

Profile as hypotheses no scores, no personality labels

Do: describe what the pattern suggests (face-valid acknowledgment, prescription flag, adolescent family or peer risk) and label it hypothesis.

Pitfall: the platform narrative pasted in as the formulation, or one scale turned into a criminality or family inference.

Integration, records, release the conclusion rests elsewhere

Do: name the interview, criteria, records, collateral, toxicology, and other screens behind the diagnosis; state where test materials stay.

Pitfall: a recommendation citing only the classification, or a profile sheet stapled to the court report.

Before the note is signed

- ☐ Edition, language, and mode named
- ☐ Time frame stated for the face-valid items
- ☐ Reading and accommodations recorded
- ☐ Validity concluded in words, not numbers
- ☐ Category in the publisher's words, limits attached
- ☐ Profile described as hypotheses only
- ☐ Conclusion rests on interview and collateral

Drafting with AI

Give it the facts: edition and language, paper or platform, proctor, time frame, reading conditions, the validity review and response style in words, the category as reported, interview findings with DSM-5 criteria, records, collateral, toxicology, other screens, and the recommendation.

"Draft SASSI documentation: Adult SASSI-4, English, SASSI Online 09/17, proctored, past-12-month frame, reading confirmed, validity not flagged, defensive style, Low Probability; interview met five DSM-5 criteria, BAC 0.16 at arrest, spouse collateral, AUDIT-C 7, urine negative; Level 1 outpatient recommended."

Never paste patient-identifying information into consumer AI tools. BastionGPT is HIPAA-compliant with a signed BAA on every plan.

Screen, not diagnosis
high or low probability only

Name the edition
adult, adolescent, or Spanish

State the time frame
the evaluator selects it

Category, not numbers
profile stays in the test file

SASSI Documentation Template

Copy or print for your practice · Adapt fields to your organization's, payer's and jurisdiction's documentation requirements. Contains no test content.

Setting: _____ Patient (initials): _____ Date: _____ Clinician: _____

Instrument + language + mode (paper / online / audio): _____ Time frame for the face-valid items: _____

Referral context and proctoring

Referral source and question · case number if the report is filed · told the result goes to the referring party · proctored by whom, where, on what device

Reading, comprehension, and accommodations

Reading level confirmed how · audio administration if used · questions asked and handled without rephrasing any item · interpreter, vision, or fatigue issues

Validity statement and response style

Publisher's validity check named · items complete or gaps resolved · random or inconsistent responding not flagged, or flagged · defensiveness described in words as a hypothesis · profile interpretable, with caution, or not used

Result category, in the publisher's words

High Probability or Low Probability of a substance use disorder, as reported by the key or platform · edition and date · limits in the same sentence: screen, not diagnosis; low does not rule out; high is not current use or impairment

Profile description, as hypotheses

Face-valid acknowledgment · symptom or attribute pattern · prescription drug scale flag · SASSI-A3 family, peer, or attitude risk · no scale scores, no personality or criminality labels · Spanish SASSI: classification only

Interview, collateral, and independent conclusion

DSM-5 criteria reviewed · history, arrest, driving, and treatment records · collateral informants · toxicology or breath results · AUDIT-C or DAST-10 comparison · diagnosis, or none, and its basis apart from the screen result

Recommendation, records, and release

Level of care, education, or monitoring, not resting on the classification · questionnaire, profile, and platform report kept as test data · contents of the outgoing report · release or Part 2 consent on file · repeat plan, if any

Clinician (name and credentials): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____