

STRESS MASTERY WORKBOOK



James C. Petersen, Ph.D.



THE STRESS MASTERY WORKBOOK

This workbook is your **Road Map to Stress Mastery**! While the Stress Mastery Guide provides an understanding of the basic SMQ scales and offers suggestions, ideas and approaches to mastering stress, this workbook can help you focus on key aspects of your stress and what to do about it. Use this workbook to journal and record your thoughts on what is causing your stress so that you can take Action to make the changes you want to make!

While everyone experiences stress, some people have greater challenges with their stress than others. Even if your stress is relatively minor or if you experience stress only under certain circumstances, taking the next step in "digging deeper" into your results can be of great benefit. In order to gain a deeper understanding of the SMQ, isolate the one or two attitudes, behaviors or thoughts that you can change now to make a difference for you. The following provides a framework to help you see what you might want to change so that you will feel better, more relaxed and less stressed. There are several steps you may wish to take.

INTERPRETING THE RESULTS OF YOUR SMQ

#1 - SEE THE BIG PICTURE



The first step is to take a "big picture" look at your scores on each scale. What you see may only be the tip of the iceberg! Look at your SMQ scales and take note of the scales where you scored the highest, such as High to Medium High Risk. If you scored Medium to Low on all scales...GREAT. You're probably mastering your stress quite well. But, if you scored Medium to High one or more scales, it may be time to take steps to change how you perceive and respond to life and work stressors. Only you can change how you feel.

Ask, "How would I feel, if I wasn't so angry and frustrated with others all the time?" Chances are you'd feel a lot better! The key to mastering stress is to become aware of the behaviors and attitudes that reflect your inner stress and outward expression of that stress, so that you can take action to prevent stress from getting worse. Stress mastery is not about changing your world or the people in it, even if they need to be changed, but in learning how to respond to problems, people and events that you don't like or wish they or it didn't happen.

#2 - IDENTIFY YOUR HIGH to MEDIUM HIGH RISK AREAS



After looking at your risk scores on the 11 scales, focus on the specific questions where you scored high (4 or 5). The higher the score, the greater the "risk" that stress may be affecting you and/or others. Ask these questions:

Did I score this correctly?

Was I being honest with myself? Should it be higher or lower? Remember the SMQ is not a test but a reflection of how you perceive yourself right now and the recent past.

What does this question mean to me?

Does this reflect who I am right now?

Is it a problem for me, my family or co-workers?

What can I do to change so that I have less stress?



#3-DIG DEEPER



Many times people answer a question one way and then would like to change their response later after reviewing the questions. No problem. Think about each question where you scored high or medium high and ask yourself if it is accurate? Change your response if you feel that if would be more accurate with a lower or higher score. Likewise, review the Medium Scores to see if they should be higher or lower. And, finally, go over the Low to Medium Low scores and make any changes necessary. Review all of the questions and how you responded to them. Change them now so that you can have a better sense for the two or three key areas and behaviors (physical and mental) that you should attended to.

#4 - GET ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE



Share the results of the SMQ with someone you trust and who can give you their honest feedback. Be open and non-defensive. Sometimes we are not the best judge of our behaviors and others will see you differently. That is okay! No one is perfect and most people, even very successful people, experience stress. As you may see, your view of yourself can be quite different than how others see you. As there is no right or wrong answers, by seeking input from a companion, family member or close friend can lead to a more comprehensive understanding of how you handle stress and can lead to positive solutions as discussed in the Stress Mastery Guide.

#5 - TAKE ACTION



The SMQ is the first step in your quest for less stress, peak performance and life and work satisfaction. You can use the Stress Mastery Guide, which is provided separately, for self-development and personal growth. Or, if you are in a stress management training or coaching program, you can discuss the results and the meaning of each Scale with you counselor, coach or a stress mastery trainer. Having someone to work with can help you isolate what needs to change, improve your ability to create a plan for change, and move in a direction that not only helps you reduces stress but prevent stress from dominating your life. Begin the journey.





HOSTILITY/ANGER

Not Important To Change	Important To Change	Question
[]	[] Q01	. Become impatient when performing repetitious acts (e.g., filling out bank forms, iting checks, washing dishes, etc.)?
[]	[] Q02	2. Dwell on the incompetencies of others who stand in the way of your progress?
[]	[] Q0 9). Feel impatient with the rate at which events take place?
[]	[] Q18	3. In a competitive situation tend to become upset or angry if you are not the best?
[]		. Feel frustrated at others' behavior (e.g., become irritated at your progress hind a slow driver or in a line of customers waiting to be served)?
What does it mean you, work, produc		to MEDIUM HIGH on this scale? (E.g., How or in what way can these behaviors affect s, family, etc.)
Why does this sca	ale represent a si	tress warning sign? (E.g., How does behavior affect stress levels?)
What changes wo alternative ways to	•	end to someone who scored Medium High to High on this scale ? (E.g., Think about tion?)
		gh on this, how committed are you to making some changes so that your stress levels and what will you change?
What changes wil	l you make durin	g the next month?



PERFECTIONISM

Not Im To C	-		Impor		Question	
]]		[]	Q06.	Insist that subordinates or those around you make no mistakes?
]]		[]	Q17.	Become irritated with the mistakes of others?
]]		[]	Q25.	Overwork a task to get it perfect?
]]		[]	Q28.	Demonstrate that you are a perfectionist at what you do?
]]		[]	Q33.	Fail to delegate because you believe you can do it better than others?
						EDIUM HIGH on this scale? (E.g., How or in what way can these behaviors affect rs, family, etc.)
Why do	oes tl	his sca	le repres	sent a	stress v	warning sign? (E.g., How does behavior affect stress levels?)
	_		uld you r behave			o someone who scored Medium High to High on this scale? (E.g., Think about
						this, how committed are you to making some changes so that your stress levels that will you change?
What c	hang	jes will	you mal	ke dur	ing the	next month?



TIME-URGENCY

Not Important To Change	To Change	Question
[]	[]	Q21. Move, walk, or eat rapidly?
[]	[]	Q32. Hurry the speech of others by saying such things as: "uh-huh
[]	[]	Q40. Talk rapidly?
		H to MEDIUM HIGH on this scale? (E.g., How or in what way can these behaviors affect -workers, family, etc.)
Why does this	scale represent a	stress warning sign? (E.g., How does behavior affect stress levels?)
What changes	would vou recomr	mend to someone who scored Medium High to High on this scale ? (E.g., Think about
	s to behave or fur	
		igh on this, how committed are you to making some changes so that your stress levels I and what will you change?
What changes	will you make duri	ing the next month?



DISAPPOINTMENT

Not Important To Change	Important To Change	Question
[]	[]	Q13. Think about getting out of your job?
[]	[]	Q34. Feel discouraged?
[]	[]	Q35. Talk about people who disappoint you?
[]	[]	Q38. Feel unappreciated?
		H to MEDIUM HIGH on this scale? (E.g., How or in what way can these behaviors affect o-workers, family, etc.)
Why does this sca	le represent a	stress warning sign? (E.g., How does behavior affect stress levels?)
What changes wou alternative ways to		mend to someone who scored Medium High to High on this scale ? (E.g., Think about nction?)
		ligh on this, how committed are you to making some changes so that your stress levels al and what will you change?
What changes will	you make dui	ring the next month?



BURNOUT

	portant hange	Impor To Cha		Question
[]	[]	Q10. Feel sad?
[]]]	Q24. Feel unenthusiastic?
]]]]	Q26. Get upset when a joke is made about you?
[]]]	Q27. Feel unhappy?
[]	[]	Q31. Feel pessimistic or negative?
				to MEDIUM HIGH on this scale? (E.g., How or in what way can these behaviors affect workers, family, etc.)
Why do	es this scale	represe	ent a st	tress warning sign? (E.g., How does behavior affect stress levels?)
	nanges woul ive ways to l			end to someone who scored Medium High to High on this scale ? (E.g., Think about tion?)
				th on this, how committed are you to making some changes so that your stress levels and what will you change?
What cl	nanges will y	ou make	e durin	g the next month?



UNDER-ACHIEVEMENT

Not Important To Change	Important To Change	Question
[]	[]	Q04. Not accomplish what you set out to do?
[]	[]	Q15. Take more time than usual to do things?
[]	[]	Q19. Avoid tasks and responsibilities?
[]	[]	Q20. Think that what you do is rather pointless?
[]	[]	Q36. Find that you are unable to locate things such as paper, tools, folders, etc.?
	to score HIGH	to MEDIUM HIGH on this scale? (E.g., How or in what way can these behaviors affect
Why does this scale	e represent a st	ress warning sign? (E.g., How does behavior affect stress levels?)
What changes woul alternative ways to l		end to someone who scored Medium High to High on this scale ? (E.g., Think about ion?)
		h on this, how committed are you to making some changes so that your stress levels and what will you change?
What changes will y	ou make during	g the next month?



TENSION

Not Important To Change	Import To Cha		Question
[]]]	Q07. Take time to do something that you really enjoy?
[]]]	Q11. Take quick, short, or no breaks during the day?
[]]]	Q23. Have very little time to relax and let go?
[]]]	Q30. Find it difficult to slow down
			to MEDIUM HIGH on this scale? (E.g., How or in what way can these behaviors affect workers, family, etc.)
Why does this scale	e represe	ent a s	tress warning sign? (E.g., How does behavior affect stress levels?)
What changes woul alternative ways to	-		end to someone who scored Medium High to High on this scale ? (E.g., Think about tion?)
If you scored Medi can be more moder	um-High ate or op	to Hig otimal	gh on this, how committed are you to making some changes so that your stress levels and what will you change?
What changes will y	/ou make	e durin	na the next month?
.5)			



The result of prolonged stress can be chronic physical and emotional dis-stress. Since the effects of stress are the main indicators of how well you are mastering stress, these are important concepts for you to understand. If you scored high on either or both of these scales, it will be important to learn new and better ways to bring down your stress levels each day. Keep in mind that these scales provide an insight to the degree that stress may be affecting you.

How did you do on the SMQ? Place an **(X)** in the space below that corresponds to your score on the following SMQ Scales. The two scales that make up the Stress Effects Scales are:

	Low	Medium- Low	Medium	Medium- High	High
Physical Effects (PE)					
LIfe/Work Satisfaction (L/W)					

ACTION
How is stress affecting you, your job and your relationships? Review how you responded to the questions in this
section and make any adjustments you feel necessary. Add or delete. Write down how stress affects you below.



II: STRESS EFFECTS SCALES

PHYSICAL SIGN OF STRESS

Refer to your STRESS MASTERY REPORT that shows how you responded to each question? Stress can have a direct impact on our body. In the space below, for each physical condition you checked on the SMQ, *indicate if stress may* be playing a role and how you can reduce the stress response to minimize its impact.

Not Stress Related		Stres Relat				
]]	[]	Q03. Notice that you have a fast pulse?		
]	1	[]	Q05. Have asthma or hay fever flare-ups?		
]	1	[]	Q08. Have indigestion?		
]]	[]	Q12. Experience shortness of breath?		
]	1]]	Q14. Have headaches?		
]]	[]	Q16. Have constipation/diarrhea?		
]]	[]	Q22. Have moist or sweaty palms, feet, or underarms?		
]	1	[]	Q29. Over perspire/sweating?		
]	1	[]	Q37. Have difficulty falling or staying asleep?		
[]	[]	Q39. Have cold hands or feet?		



STRESS EFFECTS: LIFE/WORK SATISFACTION

efer to your STRESS MASTERY REPORT that shows how you responded to each question? How Satisfied or Unsatisfied you are can have a big impact on your social and emotional well-being. How you perceive a situation, person or where you are in your life can impact the Stress Response. In the space below, if you said you were Unsatisfied (4) or Very Unsatisfied (5), what can you do to change the situation or your feelings about it?

Not Imp			ant nge	Question		
]	1	[]	Q79. Career choice? How has this affected me, my family or co-workers. What changes might you make, if any?		
[1	[]	Q80. Job choice? How has this affected me, my family or co-workers. What changes might you make, if any?		
]	1	[]	Q81. Co-workers? How has this affected me, my family or co-workers. What changes might you make, if any?		
]	1]]	Q82. Level of income? How has this affected me, my family or co-workers. What changes might you make, if any?		
[1	[]	Q83. Immediate supervisor or, if you are a homemakers, your spouse, mother or father? How has this affected me, my family or co-workers. What changes might you make, if any?		
[1]]	Q84. Amount of work? How has this affected me, my family or co-workers. What changes might you make, if any?		
[1	[]	Q85. Advancement opportunities? How has this affected me, my family or co-workers. What changes might you make, if any?		
[1	[]	Q86. Personal relationships? How has this affected me, my family or co-workers. What changes might you make, if any?		
[1	[]	Q87. Level of exercise/personal fitness? How has this affected me, my family or co-workers. What changes might you make,		



III. STRESSORS SCALES

STRESSORS: MAJOR LIFE EVENTS

efer to your STRESS MASTERY REPORT that shows how you responded to each question. <i>Place a an X in the box next to that item. What is the best ways for you to deal with the Stressor situation right now.</i> Write in brief comment on each item where you placed an X. Ask yourself, what is the best way I can handle this situation now and how if feel about it?
Q42. Death of a spouse or loved one?
Q43. Divorce or marital separation?
Q44. Arrest or jail term?
Q45. Death of a family member or close friend?
Q46. Injury or illness to you?
Q47. Major marital or family conflicts?
Q48. Loss of a job or unemployment (quit or fired)?
Q49. Retirement?
Q50. Major injury or illness of family member?
Q51. Pregnancy or addition of family member?
Q52. Financial loss or difficulties?
Q53. Victim of crime?
Q54. Change of residence?
Q55.Involved in a law suit or legal matter?
Q56. Sexual harassment? © 1982 - 2023 James C. Petersen, Ph.D. & Stressmaster International. All rights reserved.

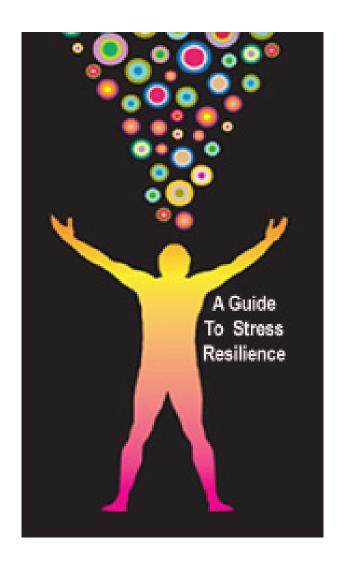


STRESSORS: HASSLES

Major I	r to your STRESS MASTERY REPORT that shows how you responded to each question place a an X in the box next to that item. Hassles are things that happen to us each and every day. They are often more challenging that life Events. Identify the ways you can prevent these hassles from recurring. For each question, write in what you to prevent, if possible, that situation, challenge or hassle from recurring.
	Q57. Challenge of a new career (re-entry career)?
	Q58. Concern about weight/health
	Q59. Not enough money for basics?
	Q60. Not enough rest or sleep?
	Q61. Conflicts with spouse or close friend?
	Q62. Difficulties with employees or friends?
	Q63. Difficulties with boss or supervisor?
	Q64. Difficulties balancing home or work life?
	Q65. Concerned about meeting high standards?
	Q66. Problems getting along with coworkers?
	Q67. Not enough money for social activities?
	Q68. Misplaced or lost things?
	Q69. Felt Lonely?
	Q70. Too many responsibilities?
	Q71. Problems with children
	Q72. Being a single parent
	Q73. Household repairs and maintenance?
	Q74. Caring for aging parents?
	Q75. Delayed in heavy traffic?
	Q76. People at work or home making life difficult?
	Q77.Vehicle repairs and maintenance?
	Q78.Wasting time



YOUR STRESS MASTERY ACTION PLAN





STRESS WARNING SIGNS

Below are symptoms people often experience when exposed to stress. The SMQ has helped you to identify the major areas were stress can be revealed. Check any of the areas below to get a summary of your key warning signs. Then "write in" the one or two most troublesome to you.

FEEL THE PHYSICAL SIGNS OF STRESS

Back pain	Indigestion
Stomach aches	Moist or sweaty palms
Cold hands or feet	Dizziness
Easily fatigued	Tension in body
Tight neck, shoulders	Frequent "sighs"
Racing heart	Headaches
Shallow breathing	Restlessness
Constipation	
List others:	
What are mos	t troubling to you?
1	
2	
OBSERVE YOUR BEHA	VIORAL SIGNS OF STRESS
Excess smoking	Angry outbursts (e.g., yelling)
Eating without thinking about the food	Critical attitude of others
Short-tempered	Procrastination
Inability to finish tasks	Oversleeping
Wake up early	Driving fast
Teeth grinding (bruxism)	Daily use of alcohol
Nail biting	Fidgety
List others:	
What are mos	t troubling to you?
1	
2	



YOUR EMOTIONAL SIGNS OF STRESS

General anxiety (Not a phobia)	Feeling helpless
Being bored	On edge
Irritable	Feeling lonely
Sense of powerlessness	Crying easily
Overwhelming pressure	Feeling angry inside
Feeling "burned out"	Unhappiness
Depressed	Up and down moods
List others:	
1	st troubling to you?
LEARN ABOUT YOUR MENTA	AL (COGNITIVE) SIGNS OF STRESS
Trouble thinking clearly	Difficulty with concentration, focus
Forgetfulness	Lack of creativity
Expecting too much from others	Inability to make decisions
Constant worry	Loss of humor
Being self-critical	Being pessimistic
Loss of focus	Confusion
List others:	
What are mo	st troubling to you?
1	



KNOW YOUR STRESSORS

Who or what are the main Hassles, Life Events or frequent stressors in your life? (E.g., people, events or things that happen)

Who or what irritates you the most in your WORK life?

Who or what irritates you the most in your PERSONAL life?

MASTERING STRESS

How do you handle or deal with your stress in a NEGATIVE way?

How do you handle or deal with your stress in a POSITIVE way?

What do you feel emotionally in response to stress?

TAKING CONTROL

Fill in the following spaces to create your own plan of action for dealing with stress. With awareness comes responsibility—by becoming more aware you can make better decisions for yourself, your health, your family and your coworkers.

The stress symptoms I most need to notice and pay attention to are:

My stress triggers include the following (situations and people):

A better way to deal with each of these will be to (list the stress management techniques you will use here):



COMMITMENT TO CHANGE

his is your personal commitment to making a positive change toward Stressmastery. Review the Stress Warning Signs section and select ONE area to work on. Copy this page for more areas/behaviors/attitudes to work on.

1: WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF BY TAKING THE SMQ:

2. SELECT THE AREA/BEHAVIOR TO WORK ON -
3: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE - E.g., behaviors, thoughts, or attitudes
4: WHAT WILL PREVENT YOU FROM BEING SUCCESSFUL? - People, things, my attitudes, lack of knowledge, lack of commitment, etc.:
5: WHAT WILL YOU DO TO OVERCOME THESE BARRIERS:
6. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS YOU CAN EXPECT IF I MAKE THESE CHANGES:
7. ASSESS YOUR COMMITMENT: HIGH MED LOW
B: TIME ALLOCATION: I will allow myself months to achieve a reasonable level of success.
9: COMMITMENT: I COMMIT to accomplish this goal! Sign:
10: ACCOUNTABLE: I give permission to to help hold me accountable.

IMPORTANT

Copy and share this contract with another person as soon as possible. Post on your refrigerator, bathroom mirror, or office wall! Let others help you to be accountable for your change.

STRESSMASTER SCORE CARD®

The SCORE CARD is designed to guide you in your self assessment process and will assist you to determine what, if any, areas are most in need of change. The concept behind the Card is to get three points of view so that you can identify the most important areas on which to focus your attention for change.

For each area, circle the value (High to Low) based upon a) Your Best Guess, b) What Your Companion thinks and c) Scores from your actual SMQ.

		YOU	YOUR BEST GUESS	TS.			HOW YOUR COMPANION VIEWS YOU	OUR COMP	MPANION JU			S	ORES FRO	SCORES FROM YOUR SMQ	
STRESS WARNING SIGNS		Circle One for Each	e for Ea	ich Area		ı	Circle One for Each Area	e for E	ach Area	1		Circle	One fo	Circle One for Each Area	a
ANGER	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low Low	Low
PERFECTIONISM	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low
TIME URGENCY	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low
DISAPPOINTMENT	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low
BURNOUT	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low
UNDER-ACHIEVEMENT	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low
TENSION	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low
STRESS															
PHYSICAL SIGNS	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low
LIFE/WORK SATISFACTION	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low
STRESSORS															
MAJOR LIFE EVENTS	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low
HASSLES	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low
NAME:		GROUP.			COMPANY:			DATE:_							

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