

Personal Crazyiness Index

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The process of creating your own PCI is designed to be as value-free as possible. Each person uses the index by setting their own criteria. In other words, discover the behavioral signs that in your experience indicate that you are “losing it”, “getting out of hand” or “feeling burnt out.” These are warnings that the boulder is ready to roll. Thus, it will be by your own standards that you will prepare yourself.

Following are twelve dimensions of your life in which you will identify danger signs that will indicate your life is getting crazy. Write two to four answers for each category on a separate sheet of paper.

- 1. Physical Health.** The ultimate insanity is to not take care of our body. When our physical health deteriorates, we have nothing. Yet, we seem to have little time for physical conditioning. Examples of “crazyiness” in this area of life include being over a certain weight, missing regular exercise for two days or more, smoking cigarettes, feeling exhausted from lack of sleep, skipping showers or meals, not taking medication as prescribed, etc.

How do you know that you are not taking care of your body?

- 2. Transportation.** How people get from place to place is often a statement about lifestyle. Take, for example, a car owner who seldom comes to a full stop, routinely exceeds the speed limit, runs out of gas, forgets to check the oil, puts off needed repairs, neglects to clean out the backseat, and averages three speeding tickets and ten parking tickets per year. Another example is the bus rider who routinely misses the bus, forgets to carry change or bus pass, or frequently leaves a smartphone or purse on the bus.

What are the transportation behaviors that indicate your life is getting out of control?

- 3. Environment.** To not have time to do your personal chores is a comment on the order of your life. Consider the home in which the plants usually go unwatered, fish are unfed, grocery supplies are depleted, laundry is not done or put away, cleaning is neglected, and dishes go unwashed.

What are ways in which your neglect your home or living space?

- 4. Work.** Chaos at work is risky for recovery. Signs of chaotic behavior are failing to return phone calls within 24 hours, showing up late for appointments, falling behind in promised work, having an unmanageable in-basket, and putting “too many irons in the fire.”

When your life is unmanageable at work, what are your behaviors?

- 5. Interests.** What are some positive interests, besides work, that give you perspective on the world? Music, reading, photography, fishing, cooking, gardening, are examples.

Note: This is the only category in which you list positive factors. If you use one of these for your PCI calculation (later in the exercise) phrase it in that space as “Lack of ____.”

What are you doing when you’re not overextended?

- 6. Social Life.** Think of friends in your social network (beyond a significant other or family members) who provide significant support for you.

What are signs that you've become isolated, alienated, or disconnected from this network?

- 7. Family and Significant Others.** Examples of craziness in this area of life are staying silent, becoming overtly hostile, or engaging in passive-aggressive behaviors.

What behaviors indicate that you are disconnected from those closest to you?

- 8. Finances.** We handle our financial resources much like our personal resources. Signs of financial overextension include an unbalanced checking account, overdue bills, a lack of ready cash, and spending more than you earn. These may have parallels in various forms of emotional overextension.

What signs indicate that you are financially overextended?

- 9. Spiritual Life and Personal Reflection.** Spirituality can be diverse and include such activities as meditation, yoga, and prayer. Personal reflection includes keeping a personal journal, completing daily readings, and pursuing therapy.

What sources of routine personal reflection do you neglect when you are overextended?

- 10. Other Compulsive or Symptomatic Behaviors.** Compulsive behaviors that have negative consequences indicate something about your general well-being and state of overall recovery. When you watch inordinate amounts of TV, overeat, bite your nails, or develop another compulsive behavior that erodes your self-esteem, these behaviors such as forgetfulness, slips of the tongue, or jealousy are further evidence of overextension.

What negative compulsive or symptomatic behaviors are present when you feel "on the edge"?

- 11. Twelve Step Practice and Therapeutic Self-Care.** Living a Twelve Step way of life involved many practices. Group attendance, Step work, sponsorship, service, and Twelve Step phone calls to support group members become the foundation of a good recovery. For some partners attending therapy, their method of self-care may be being involved in a facilitated support group.

What recovery activities do you neglect first?

- 12. Healthy Relationships.** Engaging in exploitative, abusive, or otherwise unhealthy relationships is a sign that you are not well grounded in your recovery.

What are signs that a relationship of yours is unhealthy or becoming unhealthy? Are you lying to the other person in the relationship or leaving out important pieces of the truth? Are you afraid to say what is on your mind? Are your boundaries still firm, or are you doing things someone else wants you to do even when it's not right for you?

Record & Interpret Daily Examples of your PCI

Directions: The PCI is effective only when a careful record is maintained. Recording your daily process in conjunction with regular journal-keeping will help you stay focused on priorities that keep life manageable; work on program efforts a day at a time; expand your knowledge of your personal patterns; and provide a warning of self-destructive cycles during periods of vulnerability.

From the thirty-six(ish) signs of personal craziness you recorded, chose the seven that are most critical for you and list them on a separate sheet of paper.

At the end of each day, review this list and assign **one point** to each behaviors that occurred during the day. Record your total points for each day in the space provided on the **Personal Craziness Chart** on the next page.

If you fail to record the number of points each day, that day receives an automatic score of seven. If you cannot even do a daily scoring, you are obviously out of balance.

At the end of the week total your seven daily scores for the week and make an X in the appropriate box in the **PCI Graph**. Chart your progress over a twelve-week period, and reflect on where you are in recovery.

Personal Craziness Chart

Day/Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sunday												
Monday												
Tuesday												
Wednesday												
Thursday												
Friday												
Saturday												
Weekly Total												

PCI Graph

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
41-49 Very High Risk												
31-40 High Risk												
21-30 Medium Risk												
11-20 Stable Solidity												
1-10 Optimal Health												

The PCI is especially useful early on as recovery habits are established. Also, the PCI becomes helpful during periods of stress and vulnerability. Many simply use it as a daily reminder of their progress. These users change the items as they move forward in their recovery.

Interpretation of the PCI

41-49 Very High Risk	Usually pursuing self-destructive behavior; overzealous about one’s special interests; blames others for failures; seldom produces on time; controversial in community; success vs. achievement-oriented.
31-40 High Risk	Living in extremes (overactive or inactive); relationships abbreviated; feels irresponsible and is; constantly has reasons for not following through; lives one way, talks another; works hard to catch up.
21-30 Medium Risk	Often rushed; can’t get it all in; no emotional margin for crisis; vulnerable to slip into old patterns; typically lives as if he or she has inordinate influence over others and/or feels inadequate.
11-20 Stable Solidity	Resilient. Recognizes human limits; does not pretend to be more than they are; maintains most boundaries; well ordered; typically feels competent; feels supported; able to weather crisis.
1-10 Optimal Health	Very resilient. Knows limits; has clear priorities; congruent with values; rooted in diversity; supportive; has established a personal system; balanced, orderly, resolves crises quickly; capacity to sustain spontaneity; shows creative discipline.