

## The 'Take me with you' guide to assessment

### History

- Background information
- 'Presenting complaint'
- History of presenting complaint
- Past psychiatric history
- Past medical history
- Medication history
- Family history
- Personal history
  - Birth and early development
  - Family background and early childhood
  - Education
  - Occupation
  - Psychosexual/relationships
- Substance misuse
- Forensic history
- Social history
- Premorbid personality
- Collateral history

### Mental state examination (MSE)

- Appearance and behaviour
- Speech:
  - Rate
  - Volume
  - Tone
  - Flow
- Mood:
  - Subjective
  - Objective
- Thought:
  - Preoccupations and worries
  - Delusions
  - Overvalued ideas
  - Obsessions
  - Thoughts of harm
- Perception:
  - Illusions
  - Hallucinations
  - Depersonalization and derealization
- Cognition—see M-ACE (p. 143–4).
- Insight