The Drug Attitude Inventory (DAI) was originally a 30-item scale that was developed to assess how the attitude of schizophrenic patients toward their medications may affect compliance. The items were selected based on comments made by patients regarding their medications. Respondents indicated “true” or “false” for each of 30 statements. Reliability analysis of the responses of 150 patients diagnosed with schizophrenia indicated a high internal consistency (Hogan, 1983). Further revision of the scale using discriminant function analysis led to the scale being shortened to 10 items.¹

The items have been shown to distinguish between patients who are compliant and those who are not. The items with the most potential for discriminating attitudes between medication-compliant and noncompliant patients appear to be subjective feeling factors. However, it may be difficult to determine whether the patient is relating to a previous experience or to the current medication being taken. Van Putten and May² have also developed a scale that evaluates psychotropic drug attitudes. In this instrument, subjective response is rated on a euphoric-dysphoric continuum using a scale ranging from +44 (most euphoric) to −44 (most dysphoric).
