Personal Early Warning Signs - Session activity

Facilitate a structured practice of personal early warning signs with preparation, reflection, and an agreed closing.

Mental health professionals | 30 minutes

Fictional example: Casey notices less sleep and difficulty attending usual activities.

0-5 min | Agree on purpose and fit

Explain the educational scope. Ask what would be useful, check readiness and access needs, and establish choices to observe, adapt, or pass. Use an ordinary example; do not solicit trauma narratives.

5-10 min | Orient with an example

Changes can be noticed relative to an individual's usual pattern without self-diagnosis. Fictional example: Casey notices less sleep and difficulty attending usual activities. Ask what is observed and what remains uncertain.

10-20 min | Practice and compare

With a clinician, list personally meaningful early changes, possible alternative explanations, and agreed response steps. Offer quiet individual work, a supported conversation, or an observing role. Compare two possible responses without evaluating people as right or wrong.

20-25 min | Reflect on meaning

Which changes should prompt a planned conversation with your team? Ask what fit, what did not fit, and how culture, power, disability access, or external conditions affect the options.

25-30 min | Integrate and close

Invite one optional next step or support request. Orient to the current setting, allow an unfinished question to remain unfinished, and agree how to revisit it. End early or adapt if activation increases.

Adaptations

For a group, use fiction and no compulsory round-robin disclosure. For remote use, allow off-camera reflection and private notes. For brief use, keep one example and one question while retaining opening and closing choices.

Reflection

What adaptation or follow-up is needed?

Scope and adaptation

Original IMR-informed companion exercises, not the official IMR manual, fidelity assessment, or complete IMR program. Use collaborative clinical assessment and existing care plans. Do not change medication independently, challenge distressing beliefs through confrontation, or use worksheets to determine urgency. Increased or concerning symptoms need appropriate clinical assessment.

Original AI-assisted educational draft; independent clinical review pending. Version 1.0. Background: Illness Management and Recovery Evidence-Based Practices KIT. Full source links and scope: library.morethantherapy.org/recovery/resources/IMR-A07-4