

VIRTUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



TRIBAL HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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OVERVIEW

1. Define psychological assessment
2. Describe components of assessment
3. Why/when to consider virtual assessment
4. Examples of virtual assessment measures & administration

DEFINING PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT: What are we doing in there?

Screening

Intake

Clinical Interview

Evaluation

Testing

Neuropsychological

Diagnostic

Forensic

Magic/Elusive



WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT?

"A complex activity **integrating** knowledge, **clinical judgment**, reliable **collateral information**, and **psychometric constructs** with expertise in an area of professional practice or application. Psychological assessment is a **problem solving process** of identifying and using relevant information about individuals, groups, or institutions for the **purpose of decision-making and recommendations**. This includes sensitivity toward the inclusion of diverse and underserved populations."

(APA, 2020)

WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT?



PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

CREDENTIALS (e.g., PhD)

TRAINING: Measurement

EXPERIENCE

SCOPE OF PRACTICE: Purpose

BUILDING COMPETENCY: Coursework, Continuing Education, Consultation,
ECHO, Self-guided



PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT MEASURES

DEVELOPMENT

PSYCHOMETRIC PROPERTIES

STANDARDIZED ADMINISTRATION

STANDARDIZED SCORING

INTERPRETATION GUIDELINES

TEST SELECTION

WHAT QUESTION(S) ARE YOU TRYING TO ANSWER?

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE REPORT?

MULTIPLE MEASUREMENTS/MULTIPLE SOURCES

STANDARDIZATION SAMPLE

PSYCHOMETRIC PROPERTIES

QUESTION

WHY IS MY CHILD STRUGGLING IN SCHOOL?

PURPOSE

ACADEMIC, SCHOOL SYSTEM IS "AUDIENCE"

MULTIPLE MEASUREMENTS/MULTIPLE SOURCES

CLINICAL INTERVIEW: Parents, Teachers, Youth

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL: Questionnaires

COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING: e.g. WISC-V

ACADEMIC FUNCTIONING: e.g. WIAT

REVIEW OF RECORDS: School, Medical, Psychological, Legal

OBSERVATION: Classroom

ASSESSMENT BEFORE COVID

Qualified providers were limited, especially in rural areas

School systems had limited resources & backlogs

Waitlists for private assessment services were often long

Private assessment services can be expensive

ASSESSMENT PAYMENT

PRIVATE PAY

Varies, \$2000-\$3000

INSURANCE

Medical necessity

Not educational testing

MEDICAID (e.g. Washington State)

Mental Health Assessment 0-5 yrs: up to five sessions, per client, per provider, per calendar year

General neuropsych: no prior-auth needed if ≤ 15 units of CPT code

ASSESSMENT DURING COVID . . . AND BEYOND

Assessment services were largely discontinued

Waitlists for assessment services are long

Prioritizing increased need for mental health/crisis services

Virtual assessment could help fill an immediate need

WHY VIRTUAL ASSESSMENT?

People are waiting for assessment services . . .

Lack of qualified providers

Pre-existing waitlists plus covid backlog

Bring needed services to underserved areas

Support local providers

WHY VIRTUAL ASSESSMENT?



IS VIRTUAL ASSESSMENT RIGHT FOR THE PROVIDER?

Professional ethics

National, tribal, state regulations

Billing requirements

Professional competence

Fidelity & equivalence of norms

Document why decisions were made, if deviations occurred, etc.

IS VIRTUAL ASSESSMENT RIGHT FOR THE PATIENT?

Is in-person assessment accessible and appropriate?

What are the repercussions of delaying assessment?

Can the assessment question be answered with available virtual measurements?

Patient characteristics (e.g., attention management, familiarity with technology)

Virtual testing environment

EXAMPLE: CHADIS

Web-based System

Developmental, physical, mental health questionnaires

> 600 questionnaires available

Patient completes on-line, scored on-line

Can be integrated into patient medical record

Mental Health - Educator/Teacher Administered

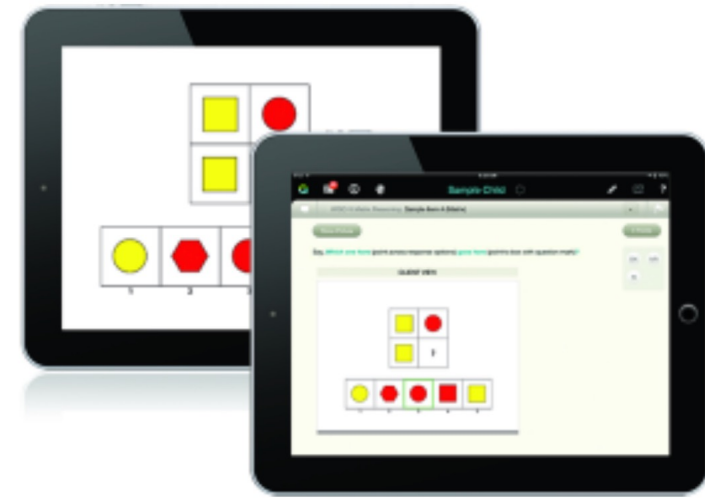
- Adaptive Behavior Assessment System Third Edition Teacher Form (Ages 2-5) (ABAS-3)*
- Adaptive Behavior Assessment System Third Edition Teacher Form (Ages 5-21) (ABAS-3)*
- ADHD Rating Scale-IV - Preschool Version (Teacher version)
- AI's Pals Attendance
- AI's Pals Student Roster
- CADDRA Teacher Assessment Form
- Caregiver-Teacher Report Form for Ages 1 1/2 - 5 (for use in daycare settings) (CTRF 1 1/2 - 5)*
- Conners 3™ - ADHD Index Teacher (Conners 3™ - AI-Teacher)*
- Conners 3™ - Teacher*
- Conners 3™ - Teacher Short*
- Conners 3™ - Global Index Teacher (Conners 3™ - GI-Teacher)*
- Medication Side Effects (Teacher)
- School Intervention Questionnaire
- School Intervention Questionnaire, Mississippi Edition
- Social Responsiveness Scale™, Second Edition - School Age, Teacher Respondent (SRS-2)*
- Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) Teacher Version (2-4; 4-10; 11-17)*
- Teacher Caregiver Therapist Form
- Teacher's Report Form for Ages 6-18 (TRF 6-18)*
- Teacher Report of School Functioning

Mental Health - Family/Environment

- Alabama Parenting Questionnaire - Short Form APQ-9
- Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test—Consumption (AUDIT-C)
- Conflict Tactics Scale - Parent-Child, Short Form
- Demographics-Long (Research Only) Available in English
- Demographics-Short
- Family Demographics
- Family Questions

EXAMPLE: WISC-V

Weschler Intelligence Scale for Children, fifth edition



PEARSON: TELE-PRACTICE & THE WISC-V

Q-global: Pearson's online testing & scoring platform

Screensharing

Norms developed with in-person administration

PEARSON: TELE-PRACTICE & THE WISC-V

Professional Facilitator

- Professional shortage (≤ 2 professionals in 50 mile radius)
- Present manipulative objects; Adjust audiovisual equipment

Examinee

- Trained to do administrative tasks
- Initial virtual meeting prior to testing to learn role

Non Professional Facilitator

- Parent, Spouse, Caregiver

No Facilitator

- Cannot administer Block Design subtest
- Impacts composite scores



PEARSON: TELE-PRACTICE & THE WISC-V

ENVIRONMENT & EQUIPMENT

Computers: audio/video, internet connectivity

Webcam, Microphone, Speakers, Headset/Headphones

Visual stimuli on screen at least 9.7" (similar to iPad)

Minimize audio visual distractions

Lighting

Alternative peripheral camera or mirror behind patient

PEARSON: TELE-PRACTICE & THE WISC-V

ASSESSMENT MATERIAL & PROCEDURES

Test security: no screen capture, photos, or video

Document disruptions

Mailing paper test booklets, open on camera

Scoring in real time

PEARSON: TELE-PRACTICE & THE WISC-V

DOCUMENTATION

Describe tele-practice methods used

Detail clinical decisions

Was patient's best performance measured?

PEARSON: TELE-PRACTICE & THE WISC-V

“The WISC-V was administered via remote telepractice using digital stimulus materials on Pearson’s Q-global system, and a facilitator monitored the administration on-site using a printed response booklet during the live video connection using the Zoom platform. The remote testing environment appeared free of distractions, adequate rapport was established with the examinee via video/audio, and the examinee appeared appropriately engaged in the task throughout the session. No significant technological problems or distractions were noted during administration. Modifications to the standardization procedure included: [list]. The WISC-V subtests, or similar tasks, have received initial validation in several samples for remote telepractice and digital format administration, and the results are considered a valid description of the examinee’s skills and abilities.”

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MULTIPLE MEASUREMENTS/MULTIPLE SOURCES

- ✓CLINICAL INTERVIEW: Parents, Teachers, Youth
Conducted via tele-health visit
- ✓SOCIAL EMOTIONAL: Questionnaires
Conducted via online system (e.g. CHADIS)
- ✓COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING: e.g. WISC-V
Conducted virtually using Tele-practice guidelines
- ✓ACADEMIC FUNCTIONING: e.g. WIAT
Conducted virtually using Tele-practice guidelines
- ✓REVIEW OF RECORDS: School, Medical, Psychological, Legal
Conducted online or access to faxed records
- ✓OBSERVATION: Classroom
Conducted using video observation

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Provisional diagnoses

"Psychologists are encouraged to judiciously test the limits of standardized administration when doing so is necessary to answer referral questions, determine meaningful treatment implications, and/or clarify conditions under which functioning varies" (APA, 2020)

REFERENCES

American Psychological Association, APA Task Force on Psychological Assessment and Evaluation Guidelines. (2020). *APA Guidelines for Psychological Assessment and Evaluation*. Retrieved from <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/guidelines-psychological-assessment-evaluation.pdf>

Pearson. (2021). *Telepractice and the WISC-V*. Retrieved from <https://www.pearsonassessments.com/content/dam/school/global/clinical/us/assets/telepractice/guidance-documents/telepractice-and-the-wisc-v.pdf>

THANK YOU

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