EXPANDING THE PRACTICE SPECTRUM

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Challenges to Psychological Assessment: Scope of Practice and Procedures

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ASSESSMENT ISSUES

• Screening V. Assessment
• Test User Competencies
• Testing Code Problems
• Scope of Practice
• Definition of Psychological Evaluation
• Test Authorizations
AUTHORIZATION PROBLEMS

• Commercial criteria set problems
• Under-appreciate individual challenges re timing
• Lack of transparency with decision tree
• Poor inter-rater reliability of reviewers
• Lack of provider awareness about how to present request
• Regional practice differences
• Complaints about teaching hospitals and specialty clinics
SCREENING v. ASSESSMENT

• Relationship to CPT codes
• Groups Included in Statement Development
  – BPA
  – CAPP
  – COPPS
  – CPTA
• Policy v. Statement
• Timing and Utility
TEST USER COMPETENCIES

• Originated in expiration of Test User Qualifications
• Developed by CPTA to supplement CH 14 in test Standards for Educational and Psychological Tests
• Issue of no external monitor of competence
• ASPPB added to the workgroup
• Grounded in larger issue of scope of practice and demands for verification
TESTING CODE PROBLEMS

• Reason for need for screening v. testing document
• Need for us to define and own assessment
• Move to more computerized instruments
• Integrated care move to expand to top of scope of practice
• Growth of use of technicians
• Requirements for psych evaluation and definition of evaluation
SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- Growing need to verify competence
- Marketing to other disciplines who do not normally do evaluations
- Lack of clear criteria for training and experience
- Greater remuneration for doing testing over screening
- Computer generated reports and boilerplate
DEFINITION OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

• Marketing by entrepreneurs
• Miscoding on services
• Test v. assessment
• Lack of awareness for the components of assessment
• Cost factor being challenged
ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR THE WGPA (Workgroup on Psychological Assessment)

- CPT Codes and psychological assessment
- Devaluation of psychological assessment
- Pre-Authorization for psych testing and assessment
- Scope of practice protection
- Quality/Outcome measures for screening, diagnosis, treatment planning and triage in integrated care
- Professional skill development/career guidance for psychologists doing assessment
- Culturally competent assessment
Thank You!

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