Challenges to Psychological Assessment:
Stories from the States

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EXPANDING THE PRACTICE SPECTRUM

- Scope of Practice
- Reimbursement
- Practice Issues
- Parity
Scope of Practice

Encroachment from other professions on psychological testing (mental health counselors, licensed professional counselors)

Terminology

• Use of term “psychological”
• Define testing vs assessment vs screening measure vs soc-emotional report vs testing summary
Kentucky – wrestled with defining psych tests and limited tester to those licensed under psychology board

Ohio – psychologists cannot own psych testing; MSWs and clinical counselors can do psych testing

New York – LMHCs can test; training unspecified; “diagnose”

Maryland – LCPCs can test if training comparable to PhD
Outside threats:

Testing companies marketing to broader market:
• don’t require psychology license to purchase instruments
• “Assessment Catalogues”

Pearson encouraging physicians to use their test as pre-surgical psych eval instead of patient seeing psychologist
Reimbursement
Low rates

Authorization

No reimbursement for “surveys” (normed scales like BDI, MMPI)

No reimbursement for specific diagnoses
Practice Issues

Definition of Medical Necessity

Test battery diminished, trivializes complicated diagnostic rule-out,

Refusals for specific diagnoses, ID, learning/academic
Parity

Questions limits placed on testing (hours, measures, diagnoses) – are there comparable restrictions in other medical/surgical testing?

Washington state – meeting with AG, urging complaints to be filed
Thank you!

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