

Interpreting the Psychiatric Assessment

Suggestions of Best Practices for
Physicians and Sign-Language
Interpreters

Dr. Kyle Burns, MD and Susi Bolender, COI

What's the difference?

What is the purpose in a psychiatric assessment?

Why does a medical doctor perform psychiatric assessments?

What is the doctor looking for during their assessment?

Where do assessments usually take place?

kyle

Goal of the Assessment

Physician Goals	Interpreter Goals
<p>Gathering Objective Information</p> <p>Understanding clients' narratives and meaning construction</p> <p>Developing theory-based hypotheses</p> <p>Using historical information to distinguish patterns</p> <p>Making a diagnosis</p> <p>Prescribing Medication</p> <p>Developing a treatment plan with the patient</p> <p>Making further referrals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Message Equivalency in both English and ASL◆ Awareness of linguistic, social and cultural influences◆ General knowledge of psychology◆ Understanding of health care system◆ Adherence to the AVLIC Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct Guidelines◆ Ability to manage process efficiently and monitor self and process

Who is the expert?

Interpreters have knowledge and experience with client population that may be helpful.

Physician is expert in mental health issues.

Working together to provide best care and treatment for the patient and sharing expertise is best practice for both professionals.

Come up with anecdote illustrate point... when interpreter was unsure a consulted to Dr and vice versa?

It takes two!

Why is it important to have a team approach when doing assessments?

Who takes the responsibility to make sure the assessment is accurate given the cross cultural factors and language?

What are some of the challenges of interpreting psychological assessments?

How much is too much

Interpreters should share as much as they see and understand as possible during assessments.

Physicians will sort through information and clarify or ask questions to guide the assessment.

Interpreters may choose to share anomalies.

Physicians will have the option to follow up if they choose or discard information, relevant or not.

Tips and Questions

For Physicians	For Interpreters
<p>Use the interpreter for their understanding of deaf culture. Don't make assumptions on diagnoses that may be attributed to cultural norms unique to deafness.</p> <p>Don't assume your interpreter is properly qualified, ask questions about their training and experience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Know the differences between Open and Closed Questions.◆ Discuss the goals and objectives of the assessment with the physician.◆ Be assertive if the process isn't working or you feel the physician is misunderstanding the situation.