

# Assessment Practices Guide

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I. The **five essential criteria** to evaluate an interpretive summary:

- Moves from **what** (data) to **why** (assessment / so what?).
- Understanding / formulation / meaning
- Central theme of the person
- Identification of stressors / precipitants

II. Integrates and summarizes the data that has been collected.

- Results of standardized tests
- Previous treatment experiences / discharge summaries
- School evaluations / reports
- Face to face psychosocial interview
- Psychiatric / psychological evaluation
- History and physical
- Mental status

III. Summarizes the perceptions of the person served (their perspective). Strengths and choices, and prioritization of the consumer.

- What is most important?
- What comes first?
- Consistent with the consumer's concerns and perspectives (and possibly with the family's).
- Personal / family values need to be considered
- Cultural nuances are significant and valued
- Abilities and past accomplishments
- Interests and aspirations
- Resources and assets
- Unique individual attributes

IV. Provide the foundation for developing treatment plan goals and objectives.

- Sets the stage for prioritizing needs and goals
- Problem statement / behavioral evidence
- Diagnosis or possible diagnosis
- May reflect a balance between the understanding of the person served and the provider
- Identifies co-occurring disabilities and disorders

V. Recommends the course of treatment and determines the level of care.

- Specifies the stage / phase of recovery
- Should anticipate transition / discharge (length of treatment)
- Referral, tests, special assessments, if necessary
- Intensity of treatment