

TIPS FOR CONDUCTING REMOTE CFIs AND PREs

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WHAT I WILL COVER

1. Benefits and Challenges of remote CFIs and PREs
2. General practice tips
3. Tips for child interviews
4. Tips for home visits and parent-child observations
5. Tips for remote psychological testing

BENEFITS OF REMOTE CFIs AND PREs

- Limited or no travel
- Lower cost (or more time spent in direct service)
- Convenience
- Health & Safety
- Lower environmental impact
- Increased access to services
- Facilitates recording, if recording is desired

CHALLENGES OF REMOTE CFIs AND PREs

- Limited behavioral observations and ability to make assessments
- Impact on rapport building
- Difficulty maintaining privacy
- Potential coaching/influence of others (especially on children)
- Technology difficulties
 - Availability, quality, user competence, privacy of platform
- Potential interruptions
- Difficulties for people with disabilities, mental health conditions, developmental limitations
- Safety concerns
- Claims of inadequate investigation/evaluation

PRACTICE TIPS

- Develop & maintain competence in use of VC technology (See APA Guidelines for the Practice of Telehealth; attend trainings)
- Select secure platforms (e.g., Zoom for Healthcare, Doxy.me, Vsee, etc. are HIPAA compliant)
- Have adequate bandwidth (strong internet connection)
- Use privacy settings (room lock, etc)
- Develop procedures for responding to technology glitches and emergencies
- Obtain explicit informed consent (See sample informed consent on APA website)
- Develop instructional protocols: technology needs, setting needs, how to respond to glitches
- Consider parties' willingness & ability to participate in a VC evaluation (i.e., comfort, technology sophistication & access, mental health status, developmental status, age)
- MHPs: Practice within state licensing laws for telehealth services

CHILD INTERVIEWS

- Consider the age and ability of child
- Ensure privacy: e.g., conduct room scans, ask if the child is alone
- Assess if child feels he/she is in a private setting
- Have a plan for assistance for the child if needed
- Adapt your rapport building process
- Guide the child in how to focus on the interview process

HOME VISITS

- Home tours
- Google Earth the neighborhood
- Consider how parent-child observations will be conducted remotely
 - What will you observe?
 - How will you observe it?
- Consider the use of two or more devices for parent-child observations
- Guide the family to stay within your sight
- Consider turning your camera off to reduce observer effects
- Consider recording for review afterwards

REMOTE PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING

- Key concerns with remote testing are test validity and test security
- Pearson Q-Global and PARiConnect: web-based testing and HIPAA compliant
- Aim to preserve the conditions of test administration indicated in the test manual
- Ensure the environment is conducive to test taking
- Ensure the examinee is alone: conduct a room scan
- Observe the test administration to ensure the examinee does not record or take screen shots
- Document any unusual events and consider those events when interpreting the test results
- Include in your report how the testing was conducted remotely

GAWANDE (2009) “PAUSE POINTS”

- Pause at strategic moments to confirm important actions have been taken:
 - Prior to the start of the remote testing session
 - Practicing the mechanics, update your software, etc.
 - At the start of the remote testing session
 - Give reminders of no observers, screen shots, photos or recording (audio or visual)
 - During the remote testing session
 - Monitor the session and document unusual events
 - After the remote testing session
 - Judge whether environmental, technical, or other factors deviated from standard procedures and interpret accordingly
 - Disclose in your report that testing was conducted remotely

REFERENCES

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