Update and Review of Disease Protocols: Specifications for the Neuropsychological Evaluation of ADHD/ADD

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Preview

► Current Spec Sheet for Neuropsychological Evaluation of ADHD/ADD
► Issues with current spec sheet
► ADHD/ADD Working Group
► Changes incorporated into the revision
► Benefits anticipated due to changes
The Current ADHD Spec Sheet

✈ Sole neuropsych spec sheet that does not require CogScreen-AE
  ➢ Non-CogScreen examiners have not been trained in aerospace considerations, FAA standards, etc.

✈ Requires the complete core battery (except for CogScreen)
  ➢ Viewed as overkill for some cases
  ➢ Led to physician reviewers crafting one-off requirements of questionable value (e.g., CogScreen alone)
ADHD/ADD Working Group

Many thanks to the members of the Working Group for developing the recommended revisions:

- Dr. Bob Elliott
- Dr. Dan DaSilva
- Dr. Gary Kay
- Dr. Keith Atkins
- Dr. Kevin O’Brien
- Dr. Jon VanDoren
- Dr. Allison Waterworth
- Dr. Robb Mapou
What Is Not Changing?

- All of the typical expectations for any neuropsychological assessment will remain unchanged, e.g.,
  - Record review
  - Thorough psychosocial/clinical interview
  - MSE/Behavioral observations
  - Collateral interviews when indicated
- The requirement for urine drug test for ADHD Rx and psychostimulants at the conclusion of neurocognitive testing (or within 24 hours afterward) will remain unchanged
What Is Changing?

- Formatted to be consistent with all of the new spec sheets in the AME Guide
- Separate sections for the airman and the examiner
- Assessment begins with a **Screening Battery**
- **Full Battery** is triggered only in the context of problematic performance on the Screening Battery
- Detailed guidance on what must be included in report
- A list of “FAA Approved Examiners” for this condition will probably be included via a link embedded within the spec sheet
The Screening Battery

- CogScreen-AE
- COWAT or DKEFS Verbal Fluency
- CPT, TOVA or IVA+
- PASAT (minimum of trials 1 & 2)
- Trail Making Test, Parts A and B
- WRAT Reading
- Connors Adult ADHD Rating Scale, Long Version (CAARS)
  - Cautionary statement regarding response distortion & a prompt for use as semi-structured interview tool
- MMPI-2
The Full Battery

- Intelligence testing (WAIS)
- Executive functions, must include:
  - Wisconsin Card Sort (Category Test if WCST already done)
  - Stroop
  - Tower of London
- Verbal fluency (COWAT + Animal Naming Test or D-KEFS Verbal Fluency)
- Verbal memory (WMS subtests, Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test, or California Verbal Learning Test)
The Full Battery, continued

- Visual memory (Rey Complex Figure Test, WMS subtests, or Brief Visuospatial Memory Test, Revised)
- Academic testing in the areas of reading comprehension, decoding, math computation, and math reasoning skills (examples of appropriate measures include: WRAT-IV, WIAT-III and WJTA-III)
- IF INDICATED: Psychomotor testing, including:
  - Finger Tapping Test
  - Grooved Pegboard or Purdue Pegboard
Anticipated Benefits of the Revision

- Addition of CogScreen adds multi-tasking subtests and the known criterion validity regarding flight performance
- Utilization of the Screening Battery will reduce cost and increase efficiency for many airmen without sacrificing sensitivity/risking false negatives
- Restriction to properly-vetted CogScreen providers will ensure familiarity with aeromedical considerations and FAA standards and should yield more consistently valid findings
Accessing the Disease Protocols ("Spec Sheets")

› Access the list of disease protocols at:

http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/aam/ame/guide/dec_cons/disease_prot/

› This ensures that you are always accessing the most recent revisions of any Spec Sheet!
Questions?