

# State of Iowa Department of Corrections

## Policy and Procedures

Policy Number: HSP-760  
Applicability: DOC  
Policy Code: Public Access  
Iowa Code Reference: N/A  
Chapter 6: Health Services  
Sub Chapter: Mental Health  
Related DOC Policies: HSP-740  
Administrative Code Reference: N/A  
Subject: Psychological Assessments  
ACA Standards: 5-ACI-6A-28, 5-ACI-6A-32  
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Effective Date: November 2020  
Authority:

### 1. PURPOSE

To provide guidelines regarding structured assessments and the use of uniform tests and reporting.

### 2. POLICY

It is the policy of the IDOC for psychology and other qualified staff to utilize reliable, validated tools.

### 3. DEFINITIONS - See IDOC Policy AD-GA-16 for Definitions.

### 4. PROCEDURES

- A. When indicated, a referral to psychology staff may be made to assist in formulating a treatment plan through testing that may assess cognitive functioning and/or monitor symptoms.
  1. Appropriate testing will be determined and administered by the psychologist or staff member who maintains clinical privileging for the test(s) required.

2. When clinically necessary and the required testing exceeds the clinical privileging of facility mental health staff, testing may be obtained utilizing other available resources after consultation with the Medical Services Director.
  3. Valid and reliable instruments are to be used in psychological testing. Other instruments than those listed may be used at the discretion of the psychologist as their training and credentials permit.
- B. Intelligence Screening is used to obtain an estimate of cognitive functioning.
1. Initial intelligence screening is generally conducted at intake into the IDOC using the current edition of the BETA.
  2. If there are questions regarding cognitive functioning, the results of the BETA, in conjunction with the TABE, may indicate to mental health staff the need for further assessment.
  3. The current edition of the following evidence-based tools may be used to gain a better estimate of overall intelligence. These tests are not available at all institutions:
    - a. Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence (WASI)
    - b. Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test (K-BIT)
    - c. Slosson-R3 (SIT-R3)
- C. The administration of an individual intelligence test, e.g. WAIS-IV, may be performed in the following circumstances:
1. To diagnose intellectual and developmental disabilities
  2. To assess for accommodations for patient GED testing
  3. To assist in reentry planning and placement
- D. Mental health symptoms may be monitored utilizing the following tools:
1. Depression and Anxiety: Patient Health Questionnaire
  2. Mania - Young Mania Rating Scale
  3. PTSD - PTSD Checklist (PCL)

4. Obsessive Compulsive Disorder - Yale-Brown Obsessions and Compulsions Scale (Y-BOCS)
5. Neuropsychological Screening is used to assess for suspected alteration in cognitive function.

All psychologists shall be trained to administer the St. Louis University Mental Status Exam (SLUMS). These tests may be used for initial screening of reported memory deficits or when alteration in cognition or orientation is suspected.

6. Personality testing may be requested and is generally conducted for:
  - a. Parole Board evaluations
  - b. Sentence commutation considerations
  - c. IDOC Director's Review Committee
  - d. Practitioner's referral

E. Level of Care reviews are used in conjunction with clinical presentation as determined by a mental health professional to determine appropriate mental health level of care. See Policy **HSP-740**, *Identified Mental Health Levels of Care*.

F. Test results and interpretive reports shall be entered/scanned into ICON/Medical ICON.