



AMERICAN MENTAL HEALTH
COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION

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Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Mental Disorders

By James Finley posted 14 days ago

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Recommend

On Monday, September 26, 2016 the Social Security Administration (SSA) will publish final rules, effective January 17, 2017, that revise medical criteria for evaluating mental disorders. The revision to the criteria for evaluating mental disability claims, “Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Mental Disorders,” is the most comprehensive revision to SSA’s criteria since 1985.

The ability to diagnosis someone with an intellectual disability (IQ, learning etc.) is within the purview of a licensed clinical mental health counselor, if they may administer intellectual aptitude exams. Many clinical mental health counselors have been trained or can be trained to administer and interpret such exams, as it is usually a course of psychological tests and assessments specific to clinical mental health counseling. Ethically, it is incumbent upon a licensed professional who administers the test that he or she is trained and received supervision in their use.

Upon publishing this final rule, SSA standards and terminology for evaluating claims involving mental disorders reflect information from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition. SSA updated the diagnostic and functional criteria for this disorder and are using IQ test score criteria that will allow it to quickly identify people who may qualify for disability benefits based on an intellectual disability. To learn more about the rule see [here](#).

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