

Making Sense of Multiple Assessments

Some patients with developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions may have additional comorbidities that need to be evaluated and addressed. Assessment information provided by multiple contributors at different times can complicate diagnosis and intervention.

The Solution?

Treatment-Informed Evaluation (TIE) Framework

Comprehensive treatment-informed evaluations can lead to reliable diagnoses and open a child's world to you, leading to effective, highly individualized treatment plans.



1 Understand the individual's complex history.

- Educational
- Personal and medical
- Developmental
- Psychiatric
- Occupational and pre-occupational



2 Assess for impairment.

Consider these test characteristics:

- The **sensitivity** of a test—its ability to correctly identify people with a condition
- The **specificity** of a test—its ability to determine who does not have a condition
- Look for low-incidence conditions (e.g., vision and hearing impairments).



3 Assess a broad spectrum of abilities and behaviors.

- Symptoms
- Skills
- Abilities



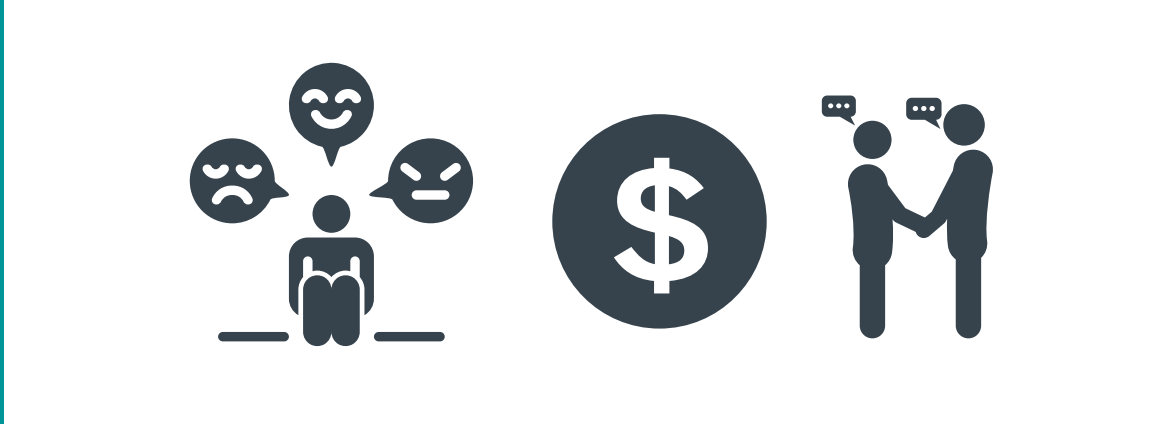
4 Choose narrow-spectrum tools.

- Assess which symptoms are most disruptive to the life or well-being of your client.



5 Assess achievement and social functioning.

- Consider the individual as a whole—not a collection of deficits but an individual with strengths and skills living in environments that offer varying levels of support.



6 Assess resilience-building factors.

These can include:

- Family and friends
- Self-esteem
- Socioeconomic factors
- Faith and faith communities
- Individual temperament
- Self-control
- Social relationships
- Sense of humor



7 Assess personality.

- To plan holistic treatments, Goldstein says, it's vital to identify strengths and assets—what's right and what's going well. TIE uses the principle that relieving symptoms has immediate value, while nurturing assets has long-term value as children move into adolescence and adulthood.



8 Conduct a clinical interview.

- Understanding the whole individual is central to treatment-informed evaluation.
- Structured or semi-structured clinical interviews can help you integrate data, refine a diagnosis, tailor interventions to match each person's needs and goals, and build an alliance that will support positive outcomes.

Watch Sam Goldstein's On-Demand Webinar

What Am I Treating? Case Conceptualization and Treatment-Informed Evaluation (TIE) in Childhood Developmental, Behavioral, and Emotional Disorders



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