

## **INFORMED CONSENT FOR TELENEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

This Informed Consent for Teleneuropsychological Assessment has important information in it. It focuses on completing or partially completing your evaluation online or over the phone. Please read it carefully, and let me know if you have any questions. When you sign this form, it will create an agreement between us.

### **What is Teleneuropsychological Assessment?**

It means using video chat, phone, or similar online methods to do an assessment. The assessment process can include interviews, review of records, and, at times, testing. It is also called remote testing or assessment.

### **Benefits and Risks of Online Assessment**

Remote assessment lets us at least partially complete an assessment at a time when we cannot be in the same place together. For remote assessment to work, though, both you and I must know how to use it. There are differences between in-person and remote assessment and there are some risks of remote assessment. For example:

- Are there risks to confidentiality? Because we will not be in my private office, other people could overhear you or me if you are not in a private place. On my end I will take reasonable steps to ensure your privacy. It is important for you to also make sure you find a private, quiet place for our session where you will not be interrupted. The place should be free of distractions. It is important for you to protect the privacy of our session on your computer or other device. We may decide ahead of time to have another person in the room where you are being tested. Other than that person, please be sure to take the tests in a place where there are no other people and where other people cannot overhear us.
- Could there be problems with the technology? Yes—in a number of ways. For example, video chat may stop working during an assessment session. If it stops more than once or twice, we may have to end the session. We will work out a back-up plan together and may try to use that. If video chat stops when I am giving you a test, I may not be able to use the results. I use a video chat system which is privacy-protected. But no system is perfect. Though it is not likely, it is possible that other people might get online access to our private conversations. It is also possible that other people or companies could get access to your stored data.
- What if there is a crisis? Usually I will not do remote assessments with patients who are currently in a crisis and need high levels of support. Before we start, we will develop a response plan in case a crisis happens during the remote assessment.
- Do remote assessments work as well as in-person? There is not much research on the impact of taking these kinds of tests over the phone or online. Studies seem to show that a few tests may give similar results, but there is much we still do not know. The way I give the tests has to be changed to do them online. These changes may affect the results in ways that are not yet understood. Because of that, I will be less certain about what your results

mean. This could make me less certain about what I recommend. Because I will not be in the room with you, I also may not be able to learn as much. Due to these unknowns, some organizations might not accept the results of the remote assessment. For example, a school, company, or court may decide it will not use my report.

- There are also other factors that can make remote tests less accurate:
  - If you have little or no experience with using technology;
  - If there is another person in the room, like a parent, or a caregiver;
  - If English is not your first language, or you need an interpreter;
  - If you are a person from a culturally diverse background.

### **Electronic Communications**

I usually use Doxy.me for teleneuropsychology appointments. You must have access to the Internet to use it. Doxy.me works with Firefox, Chrome, Safari, and Google browsers. However, it does not work with Microsoft Internet Explorer or Edge browsers, so you may need to download one of the other browsers in order for our meeting to occur. If we are only doing an interview, you should be able to use a smartphone with internet connection. However, if we are also doing testing, you will need to use a larger device (large screen iPad, Chromebook, laptop, or desktop). You will need to have a video camera and microphone either integrated into the device or connected to it. If you need new or different equipment or software, it will be solely at your cost.

For communication between sessions, I only use email and texting with your permission and only for administrative purposes unless we have made another agreement. This means that email exchanges and text messages with my office should be limited to administrative matters. This includes things like setting and changing appointments, billing matters, and other related issues. I cannot guarantee the confidentiality of any information communicated by email or text. Therefore, I will not discuss any clinical information by email or text, and I ask that you do not either. Also, I do not routinely respond immediately to emails or texts, so these methods **should not** be used in an emergency.

If an urgent issue arises, you should feel free to attempt to reach me by phone. I will try to return your call within 24 hours except on weekends and holidays. If you are unable to reach me and feel that you cannot wait for me to return your call, contact your family physician, local crisis line, or the nearest emergency room and ask for the psychologist or psychiatrist on call. If I will be unavailable for an extended time, I will provide you with the name of a colleague to contact in my absence if necessary.

### **Confidentiality**

I have a legal and ethical duty to do my best to protect all communications in this remote evaluation. Even using a secure and private platform, however, I cannot guarantee your privacy. It is possible other people may gain access to our communications. I will try to use updated encryption methods, firewalls, and back-up systems to help keep your information safe. There is still a risk that our digital contacts may be accessed by others. You should also take reasonable steps to ensure the privacy of our communications. (For example, avoid using a public WiFi system

5/8/2020

because it can cause serious privacy problems. Only use secure networks for remote meetings. Also, be sure to have passwords to protect the device you use for our sessions.)

I may recommend that you have a person with you in the room to help the testing go more smoothly. If so, first we will talk about and agree on who that person will be. I will ask you to sign a release to allow that person to be present in the session. I will have that person sign an agreement to keep our sessions private. I will instruct them about what they can and cannot do to help you in the testing session.

The extent of confidentiality and the exceptions to confidentiality that I outlined in my Disclosure Statement still apply to remote testing. Please let me know if you have any questions about exceptions to confidentiality.

### **Appropriateness of Teleneuropsychology**

I usually do testing only in person. But because of the Coronavirus, we cannot do that right now. Once we can safely meet together in my office, I will stop offering remote testing. I will let you know if I decide remote assessment is not a good way to evaluate you. We will talk about whether there are options, or if we will have to wait before completing the assessment.

### **If the Session is Disconnected**

If the session is interrupted and it is not an emergency, please disconnect from the session and then use the same web address to reconnect. If you are not able to reconnect to the Doxy.me system within 2 minutes, then call me at 206-940-1106. I will also attempt to call you at the number that you provided to me.

If the session is interrupted and we cannot reconnect, you will only be charged for the actual session time.

### **Your Location at the Time of the Appointment**

As I am licensed in the states of Washington and Oregon, I can only provide teleneuropsychology services in these states. Therefore, at the beginning of our session I will ask you to confirm your current location (city and state).

### **Emergencies**

Dealing with crises can be harder to do in a remote evaluation. To make it less difficult, we will create an emergency plan before starting. I will ask you to give me the name and number of a person near you who I can contact for help in an emergency. I will also ask that you sign a release form so I can contact that person if I need to.

If our session is interrupted for any reason and it is an emergency, do not call me back. Instead, call 911, King County crisis hotline (866-427-4747) or your local county crisis clinic hotline (<https://www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/behavioral-health-recovery/mental-health-crisis-lines>), or go to your nearest emergency room. Call me back after you have called or obtained emergency services.

5/8/2020

**Fees**

Remote assessments cost the same as they do in person. Sometimes HMOs or insurance companies may not cover or reimburse for remote assessments. Please contact your insurance company before we start the testing to find out whether and how it will be reimbursed.

**Records**

You agree that you will not record any remote sessions in any way, unless we have both consented in writing. You also agree that you will not make copies of the tests or materials I send to you. In addition, you will not send, give or show the tests to anyone other than me and the person we have agreed may help you. I will document our sessions in the usual way I keep records of assessments.

**Informed Consent**

Contact person for help in case of an emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you? \_\_\_\_\_

This consent adds to the primary Disclosure Statement we have agreed to at the beginning of our work together. It does not change any part of that agreement. Your signature below shows that you agree with this consent agreement's terms and conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Psychologist

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Once we have both signed it, I will send you a copy of this form. How do you want me to send it?

\_\_\_\_ Email (if you prefer email, please enter address here):\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Paper (if you prefer regular mail, please enter address here):\_\_\_\_\_

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