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Considerations of In-Person Pediatric Assessment During COVID-19 Pandemic

Joy Goldberg, PhD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Pediatric Neuropsychologist

- Dr. Joy Goldberg has no relevant financial relationships to report

In Person Assessment

- Intake - 1 hour via Telehealth
 - Briefly review the Safety Protocols for in-person assessment, including risks and precautions

- Assessment day 3-5 hours
 - Breaks taken in testing room/building/car
 - 1 parent only with patient

- Feedback - 1 hour via Telehealth

In Person Assessment

- Prior to entering the building:
 - Each person will be asked to use hand sanitizer
 - Each person will have temperature taken
 - Each person will complete brief COVID-19 questionnaire
 - Each person will be provided a facemask
 - Parent/child may wear his/her own mask, if s/he prefers

- Parent will check-in and wait in waiting room which has been designed for social distancing (6 feet apart)

In Person Assessment

- Prior to entering the testing room:
 - Hand sanitizer will be used by both the examiner/patient
 - Ask if patient is unable to use hand sanitizer so that handwashing can be substituted
 - Hand sanitizer/handwashing every time patient enters room

In Person Assessment

- For the entirety of the test session:
 - The examinee will wear a mask
 - For the entirety of the test session the examiner will wear a mask and clear face shield
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) evaluations may need to be postponed or modified (without use of ADOS-II)
 - Dr. Cathy Lord, co-author of ADOS-II, warns of validity concerns
 - Difficulty to assess/diagnose ASD
 - Observation of facial expressions and social communication
 - For tests that would require patient to touch test materials (i.e. stimulus books), a pointer or overlay will be provided
 - Use of a Honeywell True HEPA Air Purifier, which filters 99.97% of microscopic particles, down to 0.3 microns, which may help

In Person Assessment

➤ Between test sessions:

- Follow CDC guidelines to clean and disinfect items in office (e.g. tables, door handles, chairs, pencils, pointer/clear overlay)
- This will occur twice: just prior to client arrival for testing and immediately after a client leaves
- Computer keyboard has a plastic, wipeable cover, which will also be cleaned and disinfected (if it has been used for computer-based tests)
- Testing room will not be used for a full 24 hours after each client to minimize the presence of airborne droplets

In Person Assessment

- Be mindful of confounding variables on the validity of results:
 - Educational deprivation due to closed schools/virtual learning
 - Social delays due to distancing/quarantine
 - Additional family stress
 - Situational symptoms/changes/challenges

- Reports may need modifications:
 - Recommendations for services/school supports for virtual and in-person learning
 - Comments in report about COVID-19 testing limitations/modifications

- https://www.apaservices.org/practice/news/covid19-psychology-services-protection?_ga=2.97479384.656620366.1583956176-1754642055.1499988440
- <https://www.apaservices.org/practice/news/in-person-services-covid-19>
- https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cpapsych.org/resource/resmgr/dpa/Information_Alert_4-9-20.pdf
- <https://pages.wpspublish.com/telepractice-101>
- <https://www.vapsych.org/assets/docs/COVID19/Provisional%20%20Recommendations-Guidance%20for%20Teleneuropsychology-COVID-19-4.pdf>

Questions?

