

The Application of a Rapid Assessment Instrument in a Field Practicum Setting

# of pages double-spaced	Points
4-6	1 point
7+	2 points

Rapid Assessment Instruments (RAI's) have been used in a variety of clinical and non-clinical social work settings for the evaluation of various situations, symptoms, diagnoses, behaviors, relationships, moods, and even issues such as housing needs, parental stress, etc. RAI's are statistical instruments that quantitatively assess specific designated feature(s) such as depression. Evidenced-based practice interventions can be chosen on the basis of the information obtained from the RAI's.

RAI's are statistical tools with sometimes proven, yet questionable validity and reliability as these relate to what they are intended to measure. The field of social work has been using various RAI's for many years. Examples are the Mini-Mental Status Exam (MME); Global Assessment Functioning (GAF); Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (**SBIRT**); or Global Assessment Scale (GAS) in addition to many others.

Completion of this assignment consists of collaborating with your Field Instructor on the choice of an RAI to be used in a client assessment. The RAI can be a tool currently being utilized in your agency, or a new one that would be appropriate for the situation.

Procedures for completion of the assignment:

1. Identify a client or clients where the use of an RAI would be beneficial in the assessment process.
2. Utilize the following criteria in the selection of the RAI.
 - Validity – Does it measure what it is intended to?
 - Reliability – Does it measure in a consistent, dependable way?
 - Directness – Does it get close to the actual targeted problem?
 - Readability – If a standardized (numerical) scale is used, is the language of the questions understandable?
 - Length – How long does it take to administer?
 - Cost – Can the agency afford it?
 - Cultural Sensitivity – Is this a culturally aware and sensitive tool?
 - Sensitivity and Specificity – True positives and true negative?
 - Suitability for Repetition in Administrative Settings - How burdensome is it?
 - Ease of Scoring and Interpretation?
 - Client and Agency Fit?
3. Administer the RAI.

4. Evaluate the results of the RAI.
5. Evaluate the validity, reliability, and effectiveness of the RAI utilizing the criteria referenced in #2, with regards to the client system intended to evaluate.

REFERENCES:

- Abell, Neil; Springer, David, and Kamato, Akirhito. 2009. *Developing and Validating Rapid Instruments (Pocket Guides to Social Work research Methods)*. 1st Edition. USA: Oxford University Press.
- Beebe, James. 2014. *Rapid Qualitative Assessment Process: An Introduction*. 2nd Edition. New York: Rowand & Littlefield.
- Mills, David. 2014 *Rapid Community Assessment: Explore. Discover. Grow*. 2nd Edition. Walnut Creek, CA: Create Space Independently.
- Shapiro, David L. and Noe, Angela M. 2015. *Risk Assessment: Origins, Evolution, and Implications for Practice*. New York: Springer Publishing.
- Thomlinson, Barbara. 2014. *Family Assessment Handbook: An Introduction and Practical Guide to Family Assessment*. 4th Edition. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.