

ACTIVITY: Why We Need Evidence-Based Assessment

Instructions: Take this opportunity to reflect on the following questions. It is recommended that these questions could be used as pre- and post-test reflection questions after the first and last topic of this module.

1. When you think of evidence-based practice, do you think of assessment?
2. Is informal discussion with colleagues sufficient as a sole source for informing assessment decisions? Why or why not?
3. What is your own resistance, if any, to using psychometrics (i.e., reliability, validity, sensitivity, specificity) when selecting an assessment? If you do not have any resistance, why do you think that is?
4. What are some assumptions or habits that you may have in your assessment practices? How do you check these?
5. Do you use any decision-making processes or tools for assessment (e.g., flowchart, checklist)? If so, what are they and how do you use them? If not, why do you think a decision-making process or tool could be helpful for you?
6. To what extent do you use reflective thinking (i.e., thinking about the purpose, context, evidence-base, and implications or thinking of the 'so what' instead of just the 'what') in assessment? Think about either clients you have had or cases you have studied; where would it have been good to use some reflective thinking in these case studies?