

Diagnosis and Results of Intellectual, Adaptive, Autism Spectrum, and Other Evaluations

Psychological assessments and reports from psychologists are important for the Division of Disability and Aging (DDA) to determine a person's eligibility for Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Developmental Disabilities Waiver services. Eligibility determination for developmental disabilities services is made in accordance with federal and state regulations, as well as the statutory definition of developmental disability found in [Nebraska Revised State Statute 83-1205](#).

To make an eligibility determination, DDA needs to ensure the person meets criteria and has a developmental disability with significant limitations in functional skills as measured by adaptive testing. When the person is applying based on a developmental disability like Autism Spectrum Disorder, additional assessments may be needed using standardized assessment instruments appropriate to assist in the diagnosis of these disorders. Examples of additional assessments include the Autism Spectrum Rating Scale (ASRS), Children Autism Rating Scale (CARS), or Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS).

When completing an evaluation, it is useful to DDA when the report includes:

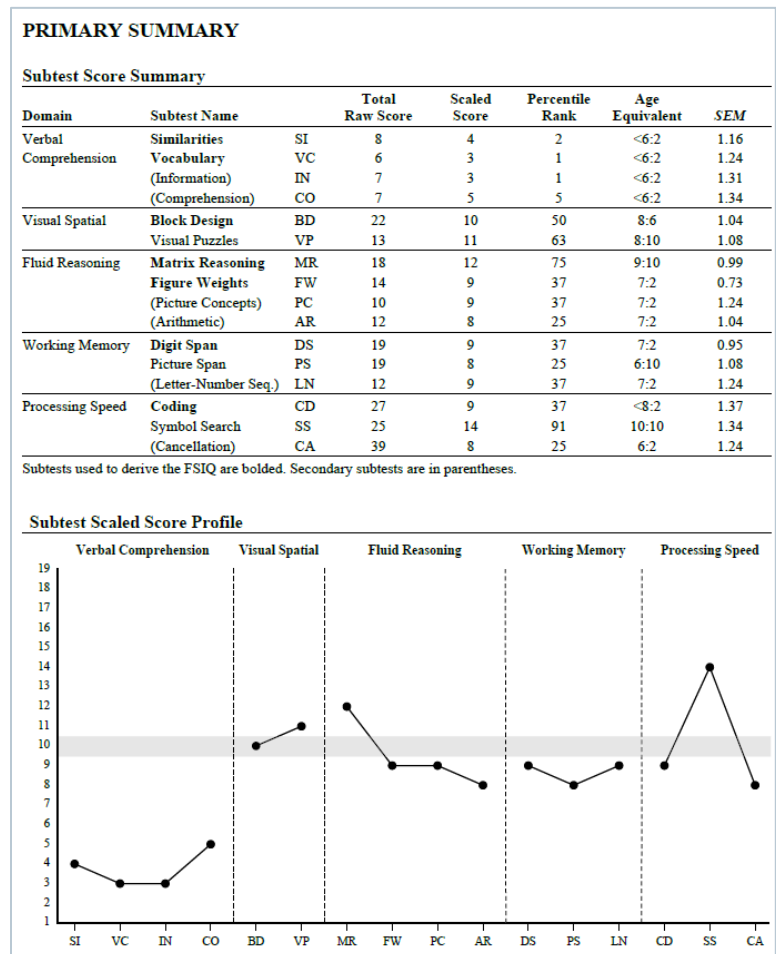
DSM-5 Diagnosis

Provide a complete DSM-5 diagnosis, including principal and secondary diagnoses. The diagnosis should include severity designations for intellectual disability based on intellectual and adaptive functioning, such as mild, moderate, severe or profound. When a person is determined to be "untestable" or significant modifications are necessary to complete testing, provide a clear written description of the reason the person is untestable along with your professional estimate of cognitive and adaptive abilities.

Intellectual Assessment

Include a complete summary of all subtests, including the Subscale and Index scores. When using the Wechsler Intelligence Scales, the Full-Scale Intelligence Quotient (FSIQ) may not be the best determinant of an individual's overall intellectual functioning, in those cases please provide the General Ability Index (GAI) scores.

An example of the information needed from the Wechsler Scales is given, but you may select any



intellectual assessment appropriate for the person you are assessing. Regardless of the assessment used, a complete summary is recommended.

DDA recommends you use a full cognitive test battery and not a brief cognitive test battery; this provides the most comprehensive information to make an eligibility determination. When a brief cognitive test battery is used due to severe intellectual deficits, medical issues, or other reasons which make it difficult for an individual to complete a full administration of standardized testing, please denote the rationale as to why you are using an abbreviated assessment in your report. However, the results from a comprehensive assessment is best.

Adaptive Assessment

It is most useful to include a complete summary of all subtests with the composite scores and scaled scores for subtests. An example is given of the information needed from the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales- Third Edition (Vineland-3) . You may select any valid adaptive assessment appropriate for the person you are assessing. The Adaptive Behavior Assessment System - Third Edition (ABAS-3) and Vineland-3 are accepted in accordance with the criteria in our statute.

To meet eligibility criteria the person must show significant functional limitations in all three areas: conceptual, practical, and social.

Autism Spectrum

The most common diagnosis relative to developmental disabilities eligibility is

Autism Spectrum Disorder. It is extremely important that DDA receive all scores for instruments used to make this determination. We need data provided by anyone assisting you to come to your conclusion about diagnosis and your observations of the person. This information is critical because there are often discrepancies between raters and we need your expertise and professional opinion to understand any discrepancies.

Other Impairing Conditions

It is important to assess for medical and behavioral health conditions and include these in your diagnostic impressions. Indicate the degree to which, in your professional opinion, any condition contributes to, or is related to, the person's intellectual or adaptive functioning. Clearly written support for your professional opinion helps DDA make the eligibility determination.

Impressions

As is appropriate when interpretive information is given, your clinical impressions of the assessments' validity to give an accurate picture of the person's true capacities is important. When there are conditions you believe impacted the testing results, clearly indicate this. When scores differ significantly from previous assessments, or between raters, include your impressions about the reason for these discrepancies. This information is critical to help DDA understand a person's skills and abilities.

