

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

2018-6 (A)

July 5, 2018

Administering the TAAD

There have been questions regarding whether the Triage Assessment for Addictive Disorders (TAAD) can be self-administered or whether it should be delivered in an interview format.

The TAAD manual states that “Under no circumstances should the TAAD-5 be given to the client to complete as a pencil and paper questionnaire (Hoffman, 2017, p. 5).”

The below standard is scored during a review. If it appears as though the consumer self-administered the TAAD, the assessor will have the burden of proving that this was not the case. Otherwise, the below will be scored as deficient.

450:22-1-11. Standardized evaluation instruments

(b)(5) All additional, supportive clinical assessment instruments shall be used only in a manner consistent with the instrument design, intended purpose and to support the identified level of severity of the participant.

(6) All assessment instruments approved for use in the ADSAC process shall be used according to the directions from the manual from each instrument used;

Problems that can occur, when the TAAD-5 is self-administered, are:

1) The consumer can answer the questions incorrectly.

Often times, when conducting site reviews, we see where on question #1, “In general, how often do you drink?” the response is item 7, “Never (**Go to # 3**)”. Then there’s a response to questions 2a, 2b, and 2c. This is a result of an improper use of the TAAD-5.

2) The participant may become confused regarding the time frame.

The time frame for the TAAD-5 questions is the past 12 months from the date of the assessment. When the TAAD-5 is given to the participant, instead of the assessor asking the questions in an interview format, it creates confusion for the participant that may result in an incorrect diagnostic designation. Typically what happens is the participant misses the preamble to the questions where it says “Each question should be asked with regard to the past 12 months.” The confusion is compounded when some questions begin with “**During the past 12 months...**” and others don’t. When the responses are based off life time then the scoring is not accurate.

If you would like to obtain a copy of the TAAD Manual, please contact The Change Companies at (888) 889-8866 or www.changecompanies.net. There is a fee associated with obtaining this handbook. The Change Companies can answer any questions regarding how to place the order as well as the cost.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stephanie Gay in black ink.

Stephanie Gay, LPC
Director of ADSAC and Provider Certification
ODMHSAS

Reference

Hoffman, N. (2017). TAAD-5. Carson City, NV: The Change Companies.