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Assessments.com collaborate to deliver the GAIN-SS

Bountiful, Utah— Assessments.com announced today that it has entered into an agreement with Michael L. Dennis, Ph.D., Senior Research Psychologist and GAIN Coordinating Center Director to deliver the GAIN-SS (Global Appraisal of Individual Needs - Short Screener) on its automated, online software platform.

The 3-5 minute GAIN SS (Global Appraisal of Individual Needs - Short Screener) was developed by Chestnut Health Systems in response to demands from professionals in the host treatment systems trying to make the process of behavioral health assessment and appropriate referral more efficient and effective, as well as from the need for mass screening (e.g., Katrina).

The (GAIN-SS) is designed primarily to accomplish three purposes:

1. It serves as a short screen for general populations to quickly and accurately identify clients who have one or more behavioral health disorders (e.g., internalizing or externalizing psychiatric disorders, substance use disorders, or crime/violence problems), and would benefit from further assessment or referral for these issues. It also rules out those who would not be identified as having behavioral health disorders.
2. It serves as an easy-to-use quality assurance tool across diverse field-assessment systems for staff with minimal training or direct supervision.
3. It serves as a periodic measure of behavioral health change over time. Since

Assessments.com was chosen as the software platform for the GAIN-SS for several reasons. Assessments.com (ADC) is one of the nation's largest providers of online assessment systems and is already working collaboratively and successfully with numerous states, counties, and private agencies as well as individuals who are engaged in behavioral health assessment and treatment.

ADC has the proven ability and the experience to deliver the GAIN SS with maximum ease of use, security, dependability, and confidentiality – and all in an online, automated system which is affordable, has excellent individual and aggregate reporting capabilities, and the flexibility to integrate the GAIN SS with other assessments and systems as required and appropriate.

The need for an instrument like the GAIN-SS has been growing for some time. Less than 1 in 5 adults and 1 in 10 adolescents with substance use disorders (abuse or dependence) are receiving any kind of treatment. Because most have come into contact with one or more systems (e.g., primary care, emergency room, mental health, criminal and juvenile justice settings, welfare, workplace programs, school programs), behavioral health screening has formally been added as one of the billable codes under HIPPA and Medicaid and expert groups are increasingly advocating that it be used as part of basic wellness and early intervention.

The catch is that people want a short and accurate assessment that can be used with minimal training, is easy to score and that covers a wide range of behavioral health problems. The latter is important because at the screening level, referrals are often "general," mental health issues are increasingly common, and typically people present with multiple problems. Another desired outcome is that screening should ideally be sufficient not only to identify those who need more detailed assessment/treatment, but also a sub-clinical or lower severity group for whom a brief intervention might be appropriate. In addition to positively impacting the host behavioral health system, introducing such a short, accurate, easy-to-score, wide-ranging screening system also improves the number and appropriateness of people who are being referred to treatment.

How Assessments.com can help you use the GAIN-SS. With the assistance of Assessments.com (ADC), the GAIN-SS, which is designed to be self- or staff-administered, can be used and all data collected in our confidential and secure on-line system, where it can be stored and managed on either an individual or an aggregate basis. ADC also provides the opportunity to incorporate the GAIN-SS data into existing assessment instruments or systems. In addition, ADC can provide a generic version of the GAIN-SS, or can also customize the GAIN-SS to meet your programs/facilities needs.

For copies of the GAIN-SS instrument, manual, and article, see:

http://www.chestnut.org/LI/gain/GAIN_SS/index.html

More information on Assessments.com is available at: <http://www.assessments.com>

Please call us toll-free at 877-277-3778 to arrange a demonstration.