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TELEPSYCHOLOGY ADDENDUM to HIPPA Information and Patient Agreement

In addition to the information contained in the HIPPA Information and Patient Agreement, the following information applies to encounters that use electronic methods of communication. Please read carefully before signing and do not hesitate to ask any questions that you have about this treatment option.

Basic Information

Telepsychology services are a new way to deliver mental health treatment, including neuropsychological assessment, using electronic means of communication. Because telepsychology is so new, the technology, requirements for use, and insurance reimbursement associated with it are continually changing. I am working to keep up with the latest information and will do my best to update you as changes occur.

Privacy and Session Policies

- Although I will use a secure service (Doxy.me) that meets HIPAA privacy standards and will ensure that we take appropriate precautions to minimize the risk of privacy breaches, there are some additional privacy risks associated with using technological means of communication. For example, if you are in a location with others nearby, there is no guarantee that you will not be overheard.
- It is important to be in a quiet, private space that minimizes distractions during the session. Consider using earbuds or headphones. Be sure that other family members, or pets, will not be in the space distracting you.
- It is important to use a secure internet connection.
- Confidentiality applies during telehealth sessions, and there will be no video or audio recording by either party.
- I will need your phone number, so that I can call you if there is a problem with the audio, and you should have your phone handy.
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts and Allways have agreed to reimburse providers for telehealth sessions. I will bill your insurance for the session. It is my understanding that copays and deductibles will be waived. You should contact your insurance company if you have questions about reimbursement and coverage.
- If I am not a provider on your plan, you will be asked to pay at the time of services, by providing credit card information.

Signature and Date above (If signing on behalf of a minor child, I attest that I have legal custody of the child.)

Please print your name above

Statement Regarding Teleneuropsychology (Tele NP):

Telehealth delivery of neuropsychological assessment provides a way to deliver services safely, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some tests, especially those involving verbal stimuli and response, can be administered remotely in a way that is relatively unchanged. Other tests may require some modification of standard procedure.

The decision regarding whether to proceed with assessment via Tele NP procedures involves weighing the potential benefits of answering referral questions and making recommendations more quickly than in-person testing can be provided, versus the risk that data collected in nonstandard ways must be interpreted cautiously and is potentially less valid.

If you agree to conduct some or all of the neuropsychological assessment through telehealth, the considerations listed above (Privacy and Session Policies) apply, as well as these additional considerations:

- Standard test administration may be modified, and this may affect the test results in ways that are so far unknown. Although some research demonstrates the validity of Tele NP, more research is needed. Deviations from standard test administration have the potential to reduce confidence in the diagnostic conclusions and recommendations for treatment.
- Involvement of a third-party in the Tele NP session (caregiver, guardian, parent, facilitator) may add additional concerns about the impact of observation on performance. It will be extremely important for parents and caregivers not to coach or cue children in any way, verbally or nonverbally, during the administration of tests.
- Error may be compounded when Tele NP procedures are used with people who come from culturally and linguistically diverse populations, require an interpreter during Tele NP, or have limited experience/comfort with the technology being employed.
- There will be a loss of some qualitative data usually obtained during an in-person exam, and this loss may reduce the richness of the clinical data and further limit conclusions and recommendations.
- In order to keep test administration as close to standardization as possible, it will be extremely important to avoid distractions or interruptions during the testing session. Please consider how to keep other family members, including young siblings, and pets, from interrupting the session.
- Standardized neuropsychological tests are copyrighted material. Please do not record the testing session, take pictures or screenshots, or copy paper materials in any way. Test security is important to ensure the continued validity of the materials used.

Your signature below indicates that you understand these considerations and would like to proceed with completing at least some of the neuropsychological assessment through Tele NP.

Signature and Date above (If signing on behalf of a minor child, I attest that I have legal custody of the child.)

Please print your name above