
Title

Implementation of Evidence Based Scales for Financial Exploitation: The Michigan APS Experience

Author(s)

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Source

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Summary of Research

From 2014 -present our research group has researched the reliability and validity of the 10 item Lichtenberg Financial Decision Screening Scale. We published studies documenting its reliability, validity and with APS workers cross validated our findings and the risk scoring for the scale. We next created a website so that we could offer online narrated training and certification as well as online case scoring--all at no charge to the APS users (see <https://olderadultnestegg.com> for our trainings, scales and publications). In late 2018 we began an implementation study with Michigan's Adult Protective Services staff statewide. Our goal was to have all APS workers trained and certified and begin using the scales. Our preliminary results found that this was indeed very feasible--over 350 APS workers were trained and certified and in the first year over 800 scales were administered. We are now conducting a study on the implementation of the scale into Michigan APS. Partnering with APS administrator Marie Shipp we have created a decision tree and user's guide to help guide the process. We held a focus group of users and found there was considerable enthusiasm for the scale and its uses.

Practice & Policy Implications

The Michigan experience demonstrated that online training, certification and usage of evidence based tools can be successful. When we complete our implementation study there will be clear implications for ways to enhance the success of implementing evidence based tools into APS. Bidirectional communication, frequent feedback from the tool author and an openness to creating adjunctive materials will all be highlighted.

Further Reading

- Campbell, R., Lichtenberg, P.A., Hall, L., Ocepek-Welikson, K. & Teresi J. (2019). Assessment of financial decision-making: An Informant Scale. *Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect*, 31, 115-128. DOI: 10.1080/08946566.2018.1556762
- Campbell, R., Gross, E. & Lichtenberg, P.A. (2019). Cross-validation of a screening scale in an Adult Protective Services sample. *Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect*, 31, 25-37. DOI: 10.1080/08946566.2018.1531098
- Lichtenberg, P.A. Teresi, J.A., Ocepek-Welikson, K & Eimick, J. Reliability and validity of the Lichtenberg Financial Decision Screening Scale (2017). *Innovation in Aging*, 00, 0 1-9 doi:10.1093/geroni/igx003
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