

# MMPI-2 INTERPRETIVE STRATEGY

## Test-taking Attitudes

- Questions
  - Are the results invalid?  
If so, stop the interpretation.
  - Are there test-taking factors (e.g., defensiveness, exaggeration) that suggest that interpretation of other MMPI-2 data should be modified?
  - Are the MMPI-2 scores likely to yield accurate picture of test taker?

- Sources of information
  - Individual validity scales
    - Content non-responsive (CNR) Faking
      - Cannot Say (?) “scale”
      - VRIN scale
      - TRIN scale
      - F scale/ $F_B$  scale
    - Content responsive Faking (CRF)
      - F scale/ $F_B$  scale
      - $F_p$  scale
      - FBS
      - L scale
      - K scale
      - S scale
  - Validity scale configuration
  - Compare with prototypes for invalid responding (e.g., faking good, malingering)

## General Level of Adjustment/ Maladjustment

- Questions
  - How much emotional distress is being experienced?
  - How well does the person cope with demands of life situation?

- Sources of Information
  - Distress
    - Clinical scales (2, 7)
    - Content scales (DEP, ANX)
    - RC scales (RCd, RC2, RC7)
  - Coping
    - Mean T score for clinical scales; profile elevation on printout
    - RCd scale
    - Welsh's Anxiety (A) scale
    - Ego Strength (Es) scale

## Characteristic Traits and Behaviors

- Question
  - How should we describe the test-taker's symptoms, problems, and personality characteristics?
- Sources of Information
  - Well-defined code types
  - Individual scales
    - Clinical
    - Restructured Clinical
    - Content
    - Supplementary
    - PSY-5

- **Resolving Inconsistencies**
  - More confidence in descriptors based on code types than on individual scales
  - More confidence in descriptors based on scales with higher scores
  - More confidence in descriptors based on scales that are more valid in relation to the specific behavior

- **Organization of inferences**
  - Symptoms
  - Major needs
  - Perceptions of the environment
  - Reactions to stress
  - Self-concept
  - Emotional control
  - Interpersonal relationships
  - Psychological resources

## Diagnostic Impressions

- Question
  - What diagnostic labels are consistent with the MMPI-2 data?
- Sources of Information
  - Well-defined code types
  - Individual scales
    - Clinical scales
    - RC scales
    - Content and Content Component scales
    - Supplementary scales
    - PSY-5 scales
  - High order inferences

## Treatment Implications

- Questions
  - Is treatment indicated (needed)?
  - What is the person's motivation for treatment?
  - What kind of treatment is indicated?
  - What can we expect from the person in treatment?
  - Will the person remain in treatment long enough to benefit?
  - Will the person show positive change in treatment?

- Sources of information
  - Validity scales
  - Well-defined code types
  - Individual Clinical, Content, & RC scales
  - PSY-5 scales
  - Supplementary/content scales
    - Ego Strength (Es) scale
    - Negative Treatment Indicators (TRT) scale