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