

NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT SERVICES

Neuropsychology is a specialty field within clinical psychology dedicated to understanding the relationships between brain and behavior, particularly as these relationships can be applied to the diagnosis of brain disorders, assessment of cognitive and behavioral functioning, and the design of effective treatment. Neuropsychological evaluations are completed specifically to understand how the different areas and systems of the brain are working, to provide diagnostics, and to make functional recommendations. Examples of ways in which neuropsychological assessments can be helpful include but are not limited to:

- To answer questions that arise regarding cognitive, affective, and personality disturbances related to neurological injury/disease.
- To gather additional data needed to inform diagnostic differentials and treatments.
- When information regarding cognitive strengths, weaknesses, and functional implications is required (e.g. return to work, need for academic accommodations, return to driving, concerns about other capacities).
- To further describe the extent/severity of deficits associated with neurological injury/disease.
- To establish a cognitive baseline for patients with ALS, MCI, MS, etc.
- To further describe concurrent or interrelated neurological and psychiatric conditions (e.g., pseudoseizures, somatoform disorders, personality change associated with FTD, etc.)

Examples of common complaints that may indicate that a patient would benefit from a neuropsychological assessment include but are not limited to:

- Short-term memory problems
- Losing items frequently
- Confusion
- An unexplained change in personality
- Poor decision-making
- Unexplained neurologic complaints
- Inability to care for finances
- Failure to recognize peers
- Language difficulty
- Poor attention and concentration

The Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center Neuropsychological Assessment Clinic is staffed by bilingual, bicultural clinical psychologists trained in providing neuropsychological assessments in both English and Spanish. Appropriateness of use of interpreters for other languages is determined on a case by case basis and modifications to testing can be made for patients with visual, auditory or motor impairments.

For further information about neuropsychological assessment services, please contact the Psychology Department at 562-385-8181.