

# Questions Asked During Live Webinar Broadcast on 04/23/2015

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## **Could the adult assessment (software) be used for adolescents, or will there be an adolescent assessment coming in the future?**

A: While the assessment software has not been through adolescent trials, I think it could well be used without much, if any changes. But we won't know until someone tries it. There is not funding at present to do more formal work on testing it with adolescents, but worth trying yourself and see how it goes.

## **Was any Clinical Sociological theory used in development of the ASAM criteria?**

A: I am not sure what aspects of sociological theory you are referring to. ASAM Criteria Dimension 6, Recovery Environment, certainly deals with a person's social environment, a person's place in society, relationships that are supportive of recovery or toxic to recovery etc., work or school relationships and functioning. Dimension 3, Emotional, Behavioral and Cognitive Conditions or Complications deals with social functioning and interpersonal relationships as well as mental health issues.

Feel free to come back with further questions if I am not getting the drift of your question.

## **What dimensions are appropriate to use for compulsive sexual behaviors that are aggravated by alcohol &/or drug abuse? Sexual addiction/compulsivity seems to be avoided in the ASAM Dimensions.**

A: Dimension 3, Emotional, Behavioral and Cognitive Conditions or Complications, would cover such behaviors. While there may not be specific examples citing sexual behavior, all of the issues related to sexual behaviors and compulsivity are covered by the six assessment dimensions: Dim. 3 directly would be the dimension to assess sexual behavior. Dim. 6, Recovery Environment would also cover any family, sig others impacts from such behavior needing family sessions. Social functioning issues at work or school could also be related to sexual behavior if it is affecting work function and relationships. Dimension 1, Acute Intoxication and/or Withdrawal Potential would also be covered if the person acts certain ways while acutely intoxicated and Dim. 1 would need to be addressed in a treatment plan if it was causing problems. Dimension 2, Biomedical Conditions and Complications may also be involved if sexual behaviors resulted in unsafe sex and the person contracted HIV or AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases. Of course Dimensions 4 and 5 would also be involved depending on a person's stage of change and readiness to address sexual behavior and on Dimension 5, how much is the client able to deal with impulses to continue sexual behavior that is harmful.

So, bottom line, all six dimensions are involved in assessing a client's sexual behavior and compulsivity.