What tools are available that combine a SUD Assessment with a MH Diagnostic Assessment (DA)?

A: Look at the ASI Lite because it covers all facets of the individual and gets you started. I would send you to [www.dsm5.org](http://www.dsm5.org) site to their online assessment measures: [https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/dsm/educational-resources/assessment-measures](https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/dsm/educational-resources/assessment-measures). In all honesty, you will need to find a really good mental health diagnostic assessment and a really good SUD assessment and use both to get the data you need. I always recommend adding a third assessment tool: biopsychosocial tool that includes health history. NIDA: [https://www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed-medical-health-professionals/screening-tools-resources/chart-screening-tools](https://www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed-medical-health-professionals/screening-tools-resources/chart-screening-tools) I always recommend adding a third assessment tool: biopsychosocial tool that includes health history.

Have you heard of interpretation devices, and would those be appropriate for substance use evaluations?

A: If English is the person’s second language, it is important to determine if it would be more appropriate and accurate to assess the client’s substance use history, mental health history, and overall functionality. An example of a great interpretation tool is Google Translate – [https://translate.google.com/](https://translate.google.com/). I would recommend that they not fill out any section online where it is personal health information (name, birth date, address, social security number, etc.) – have them tell you those orally and not in writing.

If a client is on vacation in another state, can we still do a therapy session? She is living in the state I am licensed in but is visiting another state.

A: If you are doing 1 session in another state – that is not likely to be problematic. Clients go on vacation all the time and check in with their therapists when something goes askew. However, if they move to another state or you offer many sessions to a client who is temporarily residing in another state due to work, temporarily assigned duty station, etc. – you need to contact that state’s licensing board and ask them a question about their requirements when the person is only there for several months or so.