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Inflexxion announces the release of the Comprehensive Health Assessment for Teens (CHAT™)


Web-enabled, clinically validated assessment tool helps organizations increase the quality of care for adolescents

Newton, MA –June 17, 2009-- Inflexxion, Inc. today announced the release of the Comprehensive Health Assessment for Teens (CHAT), a behavioral health assessment tool for clients ages 13-18. CHAT was developed and research-tested with funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and has been found to be both valid and reliable. The tool is offered as part of Inflexxion's Addiction Severity Index - Multimedia Version (ASI-MV) Connect product suite, a behavioral health solution that helps organizations streamline their assessment procedures, expedite treatment planning, and simplify data gathering and analysis.

The ASI-MV Connect system is web-enabled, and has three main components: the client self-administered ASI-MV interview; clinical reports populated with client-specific data; and a powerful Internet-based data analysis tool, the ASI-MV Connect Data Center. With the addition of CHAT, organizations have access to a developmentally appropriate instrument for assessing their adolescent population.

“Adolescents are often users of multiple drugs, and many don't believe that taking drugs is a serious problem – a fact that is especially alarming given the rise of prescription drug abuse, which can be deadly,” explains Dr. Al Villapiano, Vice President of Clinical Development at Inflexxion. “Adolescents often enter treatment through diverse social services, such as child welfare or the juvenile justice system. But individual facilities may not be equipped to provide comprehensive assessment or coordinated care, leaving young people at risk for under-treatment of problems that can have a devastating impact on their lives. We developed CHAT to help organizations of all kinds implement standardized assessment procedures and ensure that adolescents receive the highest quality care.”

CHAT is designed to assist with treatment planning for adolescents who are beginning or are already in treatment for substance abuse or mental health problems, entering a juvenile justice facility, or presenting at any health care organization. Through a 45-60 minute "virtual" interview that clients self-administer on a computer, CHAT provides organizations with scores for a client in six problem areas: Alcohol Use; Drug Use; Tobacco Use; Psychological Health; Family Relationships; and Peer Relationships. In addition, important clinical information is provided about the client's physical health and school, work, and legal issues.



“The CHAT format is based on the adult ASI-MV interview, which has been used by behavioral health treatment centers for nearly a decade, enabling the implementation of standardized, time- and cost-effective addiction assessment procedures,” says Villapiano. “Our hope is that CHAT will provide the same value for every organization that treats adolescents.”

CHAT has three important features lacking in other adolescent assessment instruments: it uses engaging multimedia that is geared to the adolescent population; it follows a developmental approach suited to the needs of young people; and it assesses strengths as well as problem areas, providing a more comprehensive portrait for guiding treatment. In addition, Inflexxion’s clinical research has shown that CHAT’s computer-mediated environment may increase the honesty and accuracy of client responses.

To learn more about CHAT and the ASI-MV Connect system, currently in use at nearly 500 facilities across the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico, visit the website at www.asi-mvconnect.com.

About Inflexxion, Inc.

Founded in 1989, Inflexxion leverages technology to improve public health. We create clinically validated tools and programs for critical areas of health care, including prevention and wellness education, addiction and pain treatment, and pharmaceutical risk management. These innovative solutions help reduce health-related risks, enhance clinical outcomes, and positively impact the quality of care.

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