

DEPARTMENT OF AGING

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**MSSP ADVISORY AND GUIDANCE LETTER – 10-02**

DATE: October 19, 2010

TO: Multipurpose Senior Services Program Site Directors

FROM: Mary Sibbett, Operations Manager *MSB*

SUBJECT: Cognitive Screening Tool

Purpose

To provide administrative guidance regarding selection of the cognitive screening tool.

References

MSSP Site Manual Chapter 3, Section 3.620 & 3.630; MSSP Site Director Memo, dated February 24, 2009.

Background

The Folstein Mini-Mental Status Exam (MMSE) was the only cognitive screening tool used by MSSP until copyright restrictions (fees) were imposed. As cognitive screening and monitoring of MSSP clients are critical components of the client assessment process, the California Department of Aging (CDA) identified three alternative cognitive tools that meet minimum program requirements and are available to sites at no cost.

On February 24, 2009, via a memo to Sites Directors, CDA issued guidance on available alternate screening tools and asked sites to notify their assigned program analyst on whether or not they would continue to use the MMSE (at local site expense), or, if not, what alternative tool they had selected. Below are the current CDA-approved cognitive screening tools:

CDA Approved Cognitive Screening Tools

- Folstein MMSE – Available through Psychological Assessment Resources, Inc. (PAR, Inc). Fee for use.
- Saint Louis University Mental Status Examination (SLUMS) available at www.slu.edu at no cost.
- Short Portable Mental Status Questionnaire (SPMSQ) available at www.npcrc.org at no cost. Resource document id=376170.
- Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) available at www.mocatest.org at no cost.



Procedures

Sites are responsible for selecting a cognitive tool that measures the baseline cognitive function of MSSP clients at the time of enrollment and annual reassessment. To maintain program consistency, the site must use the selected cognitive screening tool with all MSSP clients.

- **Reminder:**
If a site opts to change the cognitive screening tool that is on record at CDA, the site must notify CDA of the name of the alternate cognitive tool and its effective date, prior to implementation.

In the event that a site chooses to select a cognitive screening tool that is not on the list of CDA approved tools, a request must be submitted that includes a justification that demonstrates that the tool meets the minimum requirements.

Minimum requirements (criteria) for cognitive screening tools**Approval from CDA is required prior to implementation.**

- Measure orientation;
- Measure short term memory;
- Measure attention and concentration;
- Measure language:
 - Fluency
 - Comprehension
 - Repetition
- Produce reliable and valid results

If you have any questions, please contact your assigned program analyst.

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California Department of Aging

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