Objectives

1) Understand how PTSD impacts functioning
2) Describe best practices for assessing mental disorder-related functional impairment
3) Discuss limitations of the GAF
4) Compare measures that assess functioning, including the WHODAS 2
5) Describe results from a recent study
PTSD and Functional Impairment

- PTSD related to impairment in multiple domains
- PTSD avoidance/numbing symptoms of particular relevance
- Subthreshold PTSD is associated with impaired functioning

Schnurr et al. (2008)
VA/DoD 2010 Clinical Practice Guideline Recommendations

- Consistent with NCPTSD guidelines for PTSD C&P exams
- Use evidence-based tools to assess functional impairment
- Multi-method approach
  - Self-report, Interview
  - Objective records
  - Observer ratings
  - Examinee narrative
C&P Examiner Practices

Jackson et al., 2011
C&P Examiner Beliefs

- Qual. Overall
- Int. Nec.
- Test. Nec.

Jackson et al. 2011

- Yes
- No
Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF)

- Included in prior versions of DSM
- Clinician Rating from 0-100
- Important limitations
  - unreliable, never meant to assess functioning in PTSD, single item measure, confounds symptoms and functioning
IOM Findings

- IOM committee findings on the GAF
- Deficiencies in existing measures of functional impairment
- No obvious replacement for GAF
Existing Measures of Functional Impairment

- Short Form Health Survey (36) (SF-36)
- Social Adjustment Scale
- Sickness Impact Profile
- Sheehan Disability Scale
- Quality of Well-Being Scale
- Self-Rated Disability Scale
- Social Functioning Quest.
- UCLA Social Attainment Scale
- Inventory of Psychosocial Functioning (IPF)

- World Health Organization Disability Assessment Scale 2 (WHODAS 2)
- Social and Occupational Functioning Scale (SOFAS)
- Longitudinal Interval Follow-up valuation – Range Impaired Functioning Tool (LIFE-RIFT)
- Disability Profile
- Patient Reported Outcome Measurement Information System (PROMIS)
Caveats for existing scales

• Resource intensive/require training
• Difficult scoring
• Require license for use
• Too narrow or brief
• Confound symptoms and functioning
• Focus on physical impairments
• Respondents asked to make causal attribution
DSM-5

- Multiaxial system is now defunct
- GAF (previously on Axis V) now dropped from DSM-5
- DSM-5 now includes the WHODAS 2 for further study
- The definition of “mental disorder” still includes “the disturbance causes clinically significant distress or impairment…”.
WHODAS 2

• Mirrors ICF system
• DSM-5 recommends
• Self report and interview versions
• 12 item or 36 items
• Self and Proxy versions
• Computer assisted version available
• Widely used

• 5 point scale
• Assesses numerous domains
  • Cognition
  • Mobility
  • Self care
  • Getting along
  • Life activities
  • Participation in society
Inventory of Psychosocial Functioning (IPF)

- 80-item self-report measure
- Current (past month) functioning
- Various scoring possibilities
- 7-item brief version available
- For problems related to psychiatric disturbance
- Domains assessed: intimate partner relationships, parenting, extended family, socializing and friendships, work, education and training, self-care
Enhancing Equitable and Effective PTSD Disability Assessment (E3 PTSD)

• Compare the process and outcomes of initial PTSD C&P exam with CAPS and WHODAS 2 vs. exams without the CAPS and WHODAS 2

• Interested in quality, consistency, cost, implementation feasibility

Speroff et al., 2012
E3 PTSD Design

- Cluster, randomized controlled trial conducted at 6 VA medical centers
- Randomization was at the level of the clinician
- Two examiner groups (CAPS/WHODAS 2 vs. AAU)
- The reference standard was NC PTSD expert diagnosis
Completeness of Functional Assessment

- Standardized: 76%
- non-Standardized: 3%

Speroff et al., 2012
Rates of Unable to Determine for Functional Domains

Speroff et al., 2012
## Correlations

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Comparisons between Service Connected for PTSD and Non Service Connected on the GAF and WHODAS
Summary

• PTSD associated with impairment
• VA/DoD Guidelines suggest comprehensive assessment
• GAF problematic
• Numerous available measures, including WHODAS 2, each with their own strengths and limitations
• Standardized assessment makes a difference
For further information

• VA intranet
• ptsd.va.gov
Thank You!

(U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo)