



Do Not Order an IQ Test à la carte

To ensure accurate, clinically relevant, and cost-effective assessment, referring clinicians should request a "developmental" or "psychoeducational evaluations" (not just "IQ" or a single developmental test à la carte).

Developmental and psychoeducational evaluations are conducted by a qualified master's or doctoral-level clinical psychologist, and involves a detailed clinical interview, followed by a well-judged test selection process. For example, adaptive function scales, largely restricted to interpretation by psychologists, are an essential component in developmental evaluations, and determine disability level, if any. In settings lacking such expertise, the risk of misdiagnosis and unnecessary expenses increases.

American Psychological Association, APA Task Force on Psychological Assessment and Evaluation Guidelines. (2020). APA Guidelines for Psychological Assessment and Evaluation. Retrieved from <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/guidelines-psychological-assessment-evaluation.pdf>

American Psychiatric Association. (2022). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (5th ed., text rev.). <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.books.9780890425787>