

Provider-specific skills in assessing cultural considerations:

1) Facilitating communication

- Knowing what questions to ask based on lived and clinical experience with culturally different clients.
- Checking for understanding. Taking extra time to make sure you understand what the client is telling you and that the client understands what you are telling him/her. Providing explanations of why certain questions are being asked.
- Allowing time and space for client to tell his/her story.
- If there is a need for an interpreter, taking time prior to the diagnostic assessment to meet with the interpreter to clarify goals of the assessment and discuss any barriers related to the assessment itself.

2) Self-awareness

- Understanding how one's own cultural background influences the assessment process.
- Aware of and able to cope effectively with the vulnerability to "secondary trauma" inherent in serving clients who are dealing with trauma or extraordinarily high levels of stress.

3) Tolerance for ambiguity

- Providers who work effectively across cultures seem to share a spontaneous and flexible way of thinking and interacting. They are less eager to place the client in a box and more inclined to allow assessment and relationship processes to evolve naturally.