



# Effective Health Care

## Screening and Diagnostic Methods for Identifying Psychiatric Conditions in Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Nomination Summary Document

### Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- The topic, *Screening and Diagnostic Methods for Identifying Psychiatric Conditions in Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ID)*, is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available for a review at this time.

### Topic Description

**Nominator(s):** Individual

**Nomination Summary:** The nomination is interested in the validity of screening and diagnostic instruments for identifying psychiatric conditions in persons with intellectual disabilities.

**Staff-Generated PICO**

**Population(s):** Persons with intellectual disabilities

**Intervention(s):** Screening and diagnostic methods for the detection of psychiatric conditions (e.g. DMID, DSM, DCLD, ICD).

**Comparator(s):** No screening or diagnostic instruments as well as comparisons between instruments

**Outcome(s):** Appropriate health treatment, improved health services planning and reduction of misdiagnosis as well as more direct health-related benefits which include improvement in symptoms and impaired function associated with depression, anxiety, and other mood-disorders.

**Key Questions from Nominator:** What is the validity of standardized screening instruments for identifying psychiatric conditions (e.g., DMID, DSM, DCLD, ICD) in people with ID?

### Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Intellectually disabled (ID) persons are defined as persons with subnormal intellectual functioning which originates during the developmental period. It has multiple etiologies, including genetic defects and perinatal insults. Intelligence quotient (IQ) scores are commonly used to determine whether an

individual has an intellectual disability; IQ scores ranging from 70-79 are considered to be borderline, and scores of 67 and below are classified as disabled. The rates of psychiatric conditions among individuals with ID vary considerably and may depend on the diagnostic classification system used.

- Very few studies have been conducted on the comparative effectiveness of psychiatric screening and diagnostic instruments for this population. Two systematic reviews examined screening and diagnostic instruments for depression and anxiety in ID individuals found that certain methods showed promise in their consistency and reliability; however, most of these instruments have not been studied at great length. The methodological quality of studies also varied.
  - Hermans , van der Pas F, Evenhuis H. Instruments assessing anxiety in adults with intellectual disabilities: a systematic review. *Res Dev Disabil* 2011;32(3):861-70.
  - Hermans H, Evenhuis H. Characteristics of instruments screening for depression in adults with intellectual disabilities: a systematic review. *Res Dev Disabil* 2010;31(6):1109-20.
  
- Given the limited available evidence to address this topic and the existence of two systematic reviews no further activity will be undertaken.