

Malingering: Utility and Measurement

Bethany Walters, PhD

Dana Dagleish, PhD

Track: Clinical

CE: CPA/BBS/BRN, MCLE (1.5)

POST TBD

Narrative

This workshop will focus on malingering: what it is, why it occurs, and how it is identified. Malingering of cognitive, psychological, and medical symptoms will be discussed as they relate to clinical evaluation and assessment measures, including specific instruments, such as the SIRS, and within embedded measures, such as the MMPI-II. An overview of documentation of malingering and related behaviors, e.g., impression management will be provided. The session will conclude with a discussion regarding the ethical and legal issues associated with malingering.

BIO

Bethany Walters, PhD

Contributing Faculty, Forensic Psychology Graduate Program, Walden University

Bethany currently serves as a contributing faculty member at Walden University, where she is an instructor in the graduate forensic psychology program, and serves on student dissertation committees. She received her PhD in Clinical Forensic Psychology from Alliant International University, and has experience providing psychological evaluations and treatment for adult and juvenile offenders in outpatient and inpatient forensic settings. An international presenter, Bethany's publications and research have focused primarily on psychopathy, mass and serial homicide, and sexual offenders.

Dana Dagleish, PhD

Private Practice

Dana is a forensic psychologist in private practice in Scottsdale, Arizona. In her current practice, she provides a variety of forensic assessments, including competency to stand trial, competency to get divorced, family court evaluations and psychological evaluations for the Department of Child Safety. Dana obtained her Ph.D. in Clinical Forensic Psychology from Alliant International University in 2017 and has experience working in various forensic settings including psychiatric hospitals, jails, and juvenile detention centers. In addition to her current practice, her experience includes pretrial evaluations, sentencing evaluations, neuropsychological evaluations, violence and sexual risk assessment, bariatric evaluations, and learning disorder evaluations.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify and differentiate the following definitions: malingering, exaggeration, impression management, lying.
2. Identify the prevalence rates of malingering and in which settings malingering is especially prevalent.
3. Describe the different domains of malingering: cognitive, psychological, and medical.
4. List the different types of measures used to detect malingering, including direct tests, such as the Test of Memory Malingering (TOMM) and Structured Interview of Reported Symptoms (SIRS), and indirect or embedded measures, such as specific subscales on the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI-II) and RBANS.
5. Analyze how to assess and discuss effort as well as diagnose malingering and related disorders in forensic reports.
6. Identify ethical and legal issues associated with malingering.