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Dissimulation

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Synonyms

[Feigning](#); [Malingering](#)

Definition

A number of different terms have been used to describe various response styles that examinees may use to describe their symptoms, injuries, effects on adaptive functioning, etc. Rogers (2008) has identified a number of them including: malingering, defensiveness, irrelevant responding, and feigning, to name just a few. Dissimulation refers to a type of deception in which one aims to obscure the truth. It does not involve presentation of false information (e.g., simulation) but instead refers to concealing one's ability or some form of information. This term has also been used to refer to a portrayal of one's symptoms and features that is inaccurate. In neuropsychological cases, dissimulation tends to

occur most often when an examinee distorts their cognitive, psychological, or physical symptoms and complaints. Most often, this takes the form of exaggeration through either over-endorsement of items on self-report inventories (e.g., MMPI-2) during an interview or via exaggerated responding on cognitive measures that is above and beyond that which might be expected from someone with the particular injury in question (e.g., traumatic brain injury). The use of the term “dissimulation” is relied on when the use of more specific terms (e.g., malingering) is not warranted.

References and Readings

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