DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATORS' LETTER NO. 866

TO: State Disability Determination Services (DDS) Administrators

SUBJECT: Consultative Examinations Malingering & Credibility Tests—
            INFORMATION

This is a reminder that SSA does not support the purchase of tests for malingering or credibility. While the results from these tests can provide evidence suggestive of poor effort, or of intentional symptom manipulation, results from such instruments are not programmatically useful in resolving the issue of the credibility of an individual's statements.

Tests do not prove malingering. A high likelihood of malingering does not preclude severe limitations resulting from a medical determinable impairment (MDI).

The DDS must:

- Remove malingering and credibility tests from fee schedules and from the list of test options in their legacy systems. e.g., Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2 (MMPI-2) or Test of Memory Malingering (TOMM) If the state DDS'

    parent agency requires the tests in your fee schedules, an alert or message should be added in the legacy system to remind staff not to request/purchase the tests.
- If the DDS receives a request to purchase a malingering or credibility test from ODAR or an OHA:
    - the DDS should not purchase the test; and
    - the DDS should notify the ODAR/OHA liaison of the request.

Procedures in DI 22510.007, D.2, *Consultative Examination Expedients*, incorporate current policy, reminders (POMS, SSR, and Q &A), and best practices into this new chapter.

Please contact your Regional Office Center for Disability if you have any questions or need assistance in addressing exams to test for malingering.

/s/
Linda Dorn
Associate Commissioner
for Disability Determinations

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