

New Patient Checklist (Ages 0-17)

To ensure a speedy check-in process at our center please be sure to complete the following:
☐ Signed Patient-Therapist Agreement (Signatures required on pages 6, 7, & 8)
☐ Signed Divorced/Separated Parent Consent Form (if applicable)
☐ Information about the Child Packet
☐ Assessments
- Brief +Child Outcome Questionnaire (ages 5-12)
- PHQ/GAD7 (ages 13-17)
☐ Designation Form (HIPAA)

**Please be sure to verify Mental Health Outpatient coverage with your health insurance company PRIOR to your initial appointment

**Please give <u>24 hour</u> notice to cancel your appointment to avoid the <u>\$100 cancelation fee</u>



Office Information and Patient-Therapist Agreement Signatures Required on Pages 6-8

Welcome to Summit Medical Group's Behavioral Health and Cognitive Therapy Center (BHCTC). We thank you for choosing us for your counseling needs. This Office Information and Patient-Therapist Agreement ("Agreement") includes important information about BHCTC's services, office policies, and expectations.

It is important that you read this Agreement carefully and raise any questions you may have about it with your clinician during your meeting together. By signing this agreement, you acknowledge an understanding of the terms outlined and are aware that both you and your clinician are expected to uphold the terms of this agreement.

You may revoke this Agreement in writing at any time; however, you may still be held to the Agreement's payment obligation. Once you feel all your questions have been answered in terms that are clear to you, if you wish to proceed, please sign the bottom and return this form to the receptionist.

Counseling and Psychotherapy Services

Counseling and psychotherapy are treatments that help patients confront issues and feelings that are troubling them or causing them problems. These treatments call for an active effort on your part during the sessions and may require you to work on issues between sessions. Treatment can have many benefits and some side effects that may be unpleasant. The benefits may include reduced feelings of anxiety and depression, better relationships with others, and solutions to specific problems. However, because treatment often involves discussing unpleasant parts of your life, you may experience temporary feelings like frustration, anger, guilt, and sadness. People who usually get the most benefit from treatment are those that keep their appointments regularly and are committed to making changes in their lives. The BHCTC cannot guarantee how much benefit you will personally experience.

Sessions

The first session with your clinician will involve an evaluation of what issues and feelings appear most severe and what treatment methods are needed to address them. By the end of the first evaluation, your clinician will share his/her thoughts on your work together and what treatment they feel will be most helpful. The first session will determine if your clinician and the BHCTC is right for your treatment and will help you to determine if you feel comfortable receiving treatment at the BHCTC.

If you and your clinician choose to begin treatment together, you will be scheduled for treatment sessions at a length and frequency determined by you and you clinician. The goal of treatment is to get you feeling and functioning as efficiently as possible and we therefore limit the total number of sessions to 10 for Adults and 15 for Pediatrics. (For a better understanding of BHCTC's approach please read the "What is Cognitive Behavioral Therapy" handout in this packet).

Your clinician will discuss the possibility of Telepsychiatry sessions with you, if deemed appropriate by the provider, and once the patient therapist relationship has been established, you may be able to begin videoconference session. Telepsychiatry allows for sessions to be held using a secure interactive audio

and video electronic system. This type of session allows for more flexibility in scheduling and provides the convenience of conducting sessions in the comfort of your own home. You must have access to a computer with a webcam and internet access in order to conduct Telepsychiatry sessions. If you and your provider decide to conduct Telepsychiatry sessions, you will receive information on the required software program and logging in.

You will receive the best benefit from treatment if you attend your appointments regularly. If you must cancel an appointment, this Agreement represents your promise that you will do so at least 24 hours in advance of your scheduled time. If you do not cancel 24 hours in advance, the BHCTC will need to charge you for a missed session because your clinician will have reserved that treatment time for you and will be unable to use that time to see any other patient. A missed appointment cannot be billed to your insurance carrier, which means that you will be responsible for paying the BHCTC in full a \$100 cancellation fee for the missed appointment. The BHCTC recognizes that emergencies or other unplanned events do arise that cannot be helped (flat tires, sick children, family emergencies), so this Agreement allows you to cancel one (1) appointment less than 24 hours in advance within any 6-month period without any charge to you. If you cancel more than that, you understand and agree that BHCTC will bill you \$100 for each missed appointment. Please note that you may receive an automated appointment reminder phone call from SMG. This is a courtesy only and if you do not receive one for your appointment it does not represent a valid excuse for a missed appointment.

We try very hard to accommodate our patients and to see them in a timely manner; however, there is often a waiting list for individuals seeking treatment due to a lack of available session times. Therefore, if you miss 4 appointments where you fail to give 24 hours cancellation notice or cancel 5 appointments within any 12-month period, even if appropriate notice has been given, you may be subject to dismissal from BHCTC. If you are dismissed, you are only eligible to reapply for treatment after 12-months has passed from the date of your dismissal.

If you miss an appointment without contacting us, we will call and leave you a message about your missed appointment and ask you to call us back within 24hrs. If we do not hear from you within this time frame, we will cancel any remaining appointments you have with us. You may contact us to reschedule if you are eligible to return to the center to continue your treatment.

Working with your Physician

Many of our patients have been referred to us by their Summit Medical Group (SMG) physicians and/or other physicians not affiliated with SMG. We find that contacting these physicians about your treatment ensures that your overall care is uniform and effective. It is our position that notifying your treating physician about the treatment BHCTC is providing to you, and having your physician give us background about your medical history, improves your overall treatment. If your physician is an SMG provider, by signing this, you are authorizing and permitting the BHCTC to contact your physician by the method determined by BHCTC (e.g., phone, letter) and understand that you medical providers have access to your behavioral health information through SMG's electronic medical record.

If your physician is not affiliated with SMG, the BHCTC may have you sign the Consent to Share Information Form to discuss your treatment with your provider. The BHCTC may also attempt to contact them by letter or phone stating that we have begun treatment with you. We will also ask them to contact us if they have any questions or concerns about your treatment. If there is any specific information you do not want your treating physician to know, please discuss this with your treating clinician.

Medication Appointments

If your clinician believes you would benefit from psychiatric medications, he/she will either speak to your treating physician, refer you to a local psychiatrist or make an appointment with the BHCTC psychiatrist or psychiatric nurse practitioner for a medication evaluation. Treatment with our psychiatrist or psychiatric nurse practitioner is considered short-term and once you are stabilized on your medication you will be referred back to your treating physician who will monitor your medication and provide refills.

Professional Fees

The BHCTC's initial psychotherapy intake assessment fee is \$288 and \$320 for the intake assessment for medication management. The standard 45-minute follow-up psychotherapy session fee is \$192, and the standard 20-min f/u medication management fee is \$274-\$352. We also charge the \$192 fee (or break down of the hourly cost for periods of less than 45 minutes) for other services including report writing, attending authorized meetings with other professionals, preparation of records or treatment summaries, telephone conversations lasting longer that 15 minutes, and time spent in any other service you request of us. This fee for non-session services may or may not be reimbursed by your insurance company. If you become involved in any legal proceedings that require our participation, you will be required to pay for our professional time even if we are called to testify by another party. Because of the time-consuming nature of legal involvement, we charge \$600 per hour for preparation and attendance at any legal proceeding. These services are usually not reimbursed by your insurance company.

Billing and Payments

This Agreement requires that you pay for each session you have at the BHCTC by the end of each session. Where applicable, we will bill the insurance company for you, but you are required to pay your co-payment and any deductible by the end of each session. As a courtesy, we will check with your insurance carrier and will make reasonable attempts to determine what you will need to pay at each session; however, we cannot guarantee that the information provided to us is correct and you are ultimately responsible for determining your insurance coverage and for paying the BHCTC for treatments provided to you that are not covered by your insurance plan. By signing this Agreement, you agree that you will pay any outstanding amounts due and owing to the BHCTC. In circumstances of financial hardship, please contact SMG's business office to discuss payment options. If you have not made payments on your account within 2 scheduled sessions, and no payment arrangements have been made, the BHCTC reserves the option to use legal means to obtain payment from you. This may involve hiring a collection agency or going to small claims court.

Insurance Reimbursement

If you have health insurance, your behavioral health treatments may be covered in whole or in part. The BHCTC will assist you in determining your insurance coverage and will help you fill out any forms needed. Many managed care plans often require an authorization before treatment can begin. You may be required to contact your insurance company to obtain this authorization and/or receive it from your primary care physician.

Many managed care plans limit counseling and therapy services to short-term treatment designed to work out specific problems that prevent people from living and working as they normally do. As this is the BHCTC's model of treatment, this often works out well. Where necessary, we may request more sessions from the managed care plan. In order to do so, we are typically required to complete the

insurance company's forms which may include providing your diagnosis, the reasons you have sought treatment from the BHCTC, the symptoms you are suffering, and how long we believe treatment will or should continue. The information provided will become part of the insurance company's files. Insurance companies are obligated to keep this information confidential; however, please note that the BHCTC has no control over the handling of this information by the insurance company.

If you receive treatment from one of our NJ Licensed Psychologists, your insurance company may request that you authorize the psychologist to disclose certain confidential information in order to obtain insurance coverage benefits for these services. This disclosure can occur only if it is pursuant to a valid authorization and the information is limited to: 1) administrative information (name, age, sex, fees, dates, nature of sessions, etc.); 2) diagnostic information; 3) the status of the patient (voluntary/involuntary; inpatient/outpatient); 4) the reason for continuing psychological services (limited to an assessment of the current level of functioning and the level of distress both rated as mild, moderate, severe or extreme); and 5) a prognosis, limited to the estimated minimal length of treatment. If the Insurance Company has reasonable cause to believe that the psychological treatment in question may not be usual, customary or is unreasonable, it may request an independent review of such treatment by an independent review committee.

While a lot can be accomplished in short-term therapy, some people feel they need more services after their insurance benefits end. If this is the case with you, we will discuss what our fees are and the best way for you to arrange payment in order to receive continued treatment. If your insurance company does not allow us to see you after your benefits end, we will be happy to assist you in finding another therapist who will work well with you.

It is also important to remember that you always have the right to pay for your treatment yourself to avoid any insurance issues discussed above.

Contacting Us

You may contact the BHCTC office during regular business hours and during our evening hours to make or change appointments. Our staff is available to assist you with insurance questions. Our clinicians make all reasonable efforts to return telephone calls to patients promptly. If you have an emergency or crisis and are unable to reach your clinician, please do not hesitate to call 911, your local hospital's emergency room or a crisis center such as Overlook Hospital's Crisis Center (908-522-3586) for immediate help.

Electronic Communication:

E-mail and/or texting is not completely secure or confidential, therefore we cannot communicate with our patients or former patients via e-mail or texts. For the same reasons, we are unable to accept friend requests from patients (past or present) or communicate in any way via Facebook or Twitter. If you need to speak with your therapist between sessions, the best way to contact him or her is by leaving a message via phone with our front desk staff. They can get any pertinent information to the therapists in a timely fashion.

Professional Records

HIPAA requires that we maintain the confidentiality of "Protected Health Information" (PHI). You are permitted to examine or request a copy of your clinical record upon submitting a written request to do so in accordance with HIAA. Please note that there are some exceptions to release of these records and we will promptly advise you if we are unable to release these records to you upon receipt of your signed

authorization. As behavioral health records may be misinterpreted and/or cause undue stress to patients, we strongly encourage you to initially review them in your clinician's presence or have them forwarded to another mental health professional so you can discuss the contents with that professional. We charge a copying fee for these records, as is permitted by New Jersey regulation.

Patient Rights

HIPAA provides you with several expanded rights with regard to your Clinical Records and disclosures of protected health information (PHI). These rights include: requesting that we amend your record; requesting restrictions on what information from your Clinical Record is disclosed to others; requesting an accounting of most disclosures of PHI that you have neither consented to nor authorized; the location to which PHI disclosures were sent, recourse to any complaints you have about the policies and procedures we have pertaining to the care of your PHI, the right to a paper copy of this Agreement (the attached Notice form) and our privacy policies and procedures. Our staff is happy to discuss any of these rights with you.

Minors

If you are under 18 years of age, please be aware that the law provides your parents with the right to examine your treatment records, with certain exceptions. Specifically, New Jersey law provides that where a minor patient is between the age of 14 and 18, treatment records by a licensed psychologist or a social worker may only be released where <u>both</u> the patient and the patient's parent or legal guardian has signed an authorization. A parent or legal guardian of a minor patient treated by a licensed psychologist or social worker who is under the age of 14 may access medical records without the minor patient's authorization. Furthermore, the law allows teenagers 16 and over to consent to "temporary" treatment without parents.

It is our policy to ask minor's parents to agree to give up this right so that our work together may be more confidential. If they agree, we will only give them very general information about the minor's treatment or any information the minor patient and the clinician agree upon.

If you are a divorced or single parent of a minor, we require that both parents consent and are involved with the minor's treatment. This is to ensure that treatment goals are agreed upon and can be maintained when the minor is with either parent. Even if you refuse to have your child's other parent notified of treatment, your child's other parent may be entitled to request and receive a copy of the minor child's treatment records where permitted by New Jersey law. If you are concerned about the release of these treatment records to your child's other parent, please speak with your child's clinician. In the event the other parent's parental rights have been terminated by the Court, please provide a copy of the Court's Order to ensure that your child's records are not released to the terminated parent. The BHCTC reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to refuse to treat a child in cases where the BHCTC determines that both parents' consent is necessary.

Confidentiality

In general, our work together is private, and the law protects your privacy. In most situations (and subject to certain exceptions), we can only release information about your treatment to others if you sign a written Authorization Form that meets certain legal requirements imposed by HIPAA and state laws and regulations. There are other situations that require only that you provide written, advance consent (Please see the Notice of Privacy Practice for more information about these situations).

While such situations are unusual in our practice, we are required to reveal otherwise confidential information about your treatment in circumstances such as the following:

- If we have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subject to abuse, we <u>must</u> report it to the Division of Youth and Family Services. Once such a report is filed, we may be required to provide additional information.
- If we have reasonable cause to believe that a vulnerable adult is the subject of abuse, neglect or exploitation, and we believe that the disclosure is necessary to prevent serious harm to that adult or other potential victims, we will report the information to the county adult protective service provider. Once such report is filed, we may be required to provide additional information.
- If a patient communicates a threat, or if we believe the patient presents a threat of imminent serious physical violence against a readily identifiable individual, we may be required to make protective actions. These actions may include notifying the potential victim, contacting the police, or seek the patient's hospitalization.
- If we believe a patient presents a threat of imminent serious physical harm to him/herself, we may take various protective actions. This may include notifying the police of the imminent risk who may then perform a check to determine if the patient holds a gun permit or owns any firearms. If they do the police may remove these firearms from the patient's possession who may then request their return after the threat has subsided.

Clinician Supervision

In order to ensure that you and/or your child receive treatment that is of the highest quality, our clinicians are subjected to both individual and group supervision to discuss certain patient matters related to patients they treat. This helps ensure that your clinician is utilizing the most effective therapeutic approach. All clinicians at the BHCTC are strictly bound by confidentiality requirements related to the patients they treat, as well as patients discussed in supervision.

Feel free to discuss any concerns you have with our staff or your clinician. We will be happy to discuss the matter with you or refer you for legal advice if we cannot adequately answer your questions.

Again, we want to thank you for choosing SMG and the BHCTC for your treatment needs. We hope the information provided in this Agreement makes you an informed consumer of behavioral health services.

YOUR SIGNATURE BELOW INDICATES THAT YOU HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT AND AGREE TO ITS TERMS AND ALSO SERVES AS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE HIPAA NOTICE FORM DESCRIBED ABOVE.

Print Patient Name	Date
Signature Patient/Parent/Guardian	Signature of Patient (Age 14-17)



Behavioral Health & Cognitive Therapy Center 908-277-8900 www.summitmedicalgroup.com

Billing and Payments Agreement

- This Agreement requires you to pay for each session you have at the Behavioral Health & Cognitive Therapy Center (BHCTC) by the end of each session.
- If you have insurance, we will bill the insurance company for you, but we will expect you to pay your co-payment and any deductible by the end of each session.
- > Because behavioral health insurance tends to be complex, you are responsible for determining your insurance coverage and for paying the BHCTC for treatments that it has provided or are not covered by your insurance plan.
- ➤ By signing below, you are agreeing that you will pay any outstanding amounts due to the BHCTC. In circumstances of financial hardship, or if we do not accept your insurance, the BHCTC may have you contact Summit Medical Group's business office to arrange for a payment installment plan.

Signature Patient/Parent/Guardian	Signature of Patient (Age 14-17)
Print Patient Name	Date
AGREEMENT AND AGREE TO ITS TERM	S.
YOUR SIGNATURE BELOW INDICATES T	



Behavioral Health & Cognitive Therapy Center

908-277-8900

www.summitmedicalgroup.com

PATIENT NOTICE OF CANCELLATION POLICY

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES IN DETAIL THE CANCELLATION POLICY OF THE SUMMIT MEDICAL GROUP BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND COGNITIVE THERAPY CENTER. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

I. What This Is

This notice describes in detail, the cancellation policy of the Behavioral Health and Cognitive Therapy Center (BHCTC).

II. Our Policy

We require patients to keep all scheduled appointments. If you must cancel an appointment you must do so 24 hours prior to the appointment time. If you do not cancel prior to 24 hours, the BHCTC will charge for that session. Additionally, if you cancel 5 appointments within a year from the start of treatment, you may be subject to dismissal from the BHCTC. Please note that the automated appointment reminder phone calls are a courtesy only and do not represent a valid excuse for a missed appointment.

III. Why do we have this policy?

Patients best benefit from treatment when they come on a regular basis. Furthermore, your Clinician has reserved that time for you. If you do not give enough notice of cancellation, the Clinician will be unable to use that time to see any other patient.

IV. What if I have an emergency?

The BHCT of course recognizes that emergencies or other unplanned events do arise (i.e. flat tire, sick children, family emergencies, etc.), that is why we allow you to cancel **one** (1) appointment less than 24 hours in advance without any charge to you, within any 6 month period. However, if you cancel more than that you will be billed for each missed appointment.

V. How much would I be billed if I miss more than two appointments? Why?

You will be billed \$100. A missed appointment cannot be billed to your insurance carrier, which means you will be responsible for paying the full \$100 cancellation fee for the appointment.

People who usually get the most benefit from treatment are those that keep their appointments regularly and are committed to making changes in their lives. We look forward to continued treatment with you, as we aim to help you feel better and lead more productive lives.

Print Patient Name	Date
Signature Patient/Parent/Guardian	Signature of Patient (Age 14-17)



$\frac{\textbf{DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN RELATIVES, FRIENDS, AND/OR OTHER}}{\textbf{CAREGIVERS}}$

Patient Name:	Date:			
RN: Date of Birth:				
information to a relative, friend, and/or other chealth care or payment relating to my health	G) may disclose certain portions of my health caregiver because such person is involved with my n care. In that instance, SMG will disclose only son's involvement with my health care or payment.			
☐ I wish to make no designation at this time.				
Signature of Patient/Parent/Guardian:				
payment relating to my health care for the p	ow as persons involved with my health care of burpose of SMG's making the limited disclosures equired to list anyone. I also understand that I may			
Print Name:	DOB or Password*:			
Print Name:	DOB or Password*:			
Print Name:	DOB or Password*:			
•	of birth (DOB) of the person listed or choose a we to give his/her DOB or password in order to			
Third Party Portal Access				
<u> </u>	Portal, I understand and agree that the following the portal, which will allow the individual to view available on the portal.			
☐ I wish to make no designation at this time.				
Print Name:	Email Address:			
Signature of Patient/Parent/Guardian:				

Please return to your SMG Physician Office or Mail to: HIMS Manager -150 Floral Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974



Summit Medical Group Behavioral Health & Cognitive Therapy Center Berkeley Heights • Springfield • Livingston • Warren

If you are a divorced, separated or a single parent of a minor, it is our policy that **both** parents consent to the minor's treatment. This is to ensure that treatment is agreed upon and conducted in a collaborative manner among everyone in the child's life. Both parents should fill out the information below to give consent for your child to be seen at our center.

Date:	
I give	my son/daughter permission to be in treatment with
	(clinician's name).
Thanl	x you,
1)	(Parent/guardian signature)
2)	(Parent/guardian signature)
	(Print Patient Name)

Patient Name:		
Patient Name:		



Pediatric Supplemental Intake Questionnaire

Ethnicity/Race:	Language spoken	at home:	
Name(s) of child's parent or guard	dian:		
	pose of assessment as described		
	Did they refer you? Yes		
Please list any medical conditions (in	cluding <u>all</u> allergies):		
Who lives in your household?			
Family History			
Mother:			Age
Occupation:		_	
Father:			Age
			Age
occupation.			
Parents' relationship: married	divorced separate	ed other	
Siblings:			
M/F (circle one)	Age	Mental Health History	
M/F (circle one)	Age	Mental Health History	
M/F (circle one)	Age	Mental Health History	
		Mental Health History	

Developmental HistoryPregnancy History

Did mother have access to prenatal care? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Info N/A
Was youth exposed to toxins before birth? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Info N/A
If yes, specify type (i.e., prescription medications, illegal substances, etc.):
Length of pregnancy: ☐ Pre-term ☐ Term ☐ Post-term
Complications at birth:
Temperament as an infant:
Developmental Milestones Crawling: □ within normal limits □ not within normal limits
If not within normal limits please explain:
Walking: ☐ within normal limits ☐ not within normal limits
If not within normal limits please explain:
Speaking single words: □ within normal limits □ not within normal limits
If not within normal limits please explain:
Speaking sentences: ☐ within normal limits ☐ not within normal limits If not within normal limits please explain:
Toilet training: □ within normal limits □ not within normal limits
If not within normal limits please explain:
Separating from caregiver:

School Name: Grade: Detail <u>current</u> school functioning: Include level of inclusion, activities, favorite subject, etc. Detail past school functioning: Include difficult and/or repeated grades, periods of suspension, periods of "home instruction," etc. Detail Child Study Team involvement (IEP/504 or any other accommodations): Classification: Child Study Team Case Manager: ______ Behavioral Health Treatment History Any past diagnoses: (please list) Who provided diagnoses: List past **and** present treatment youth has participated in: Dates (or Estimated helpfulness of estimation) of treatment and reason for Type of treatment Agency/provider service termination Medication therapies List medications tried in the **past**: Youth's age and Reason for changing or response to Medication medication terminating medication Dosage Frequency List **current** medications: Medication Dosage Frequency Youth's response to medication

Educational Functioning



(Ages 5-12)

Name:	Date:	Brief Child Outcome Questionnaire
		Version 12

Completed by: O Child (ages 8-12) O Adult who knows the child well (ages 5-7)

Below is a list of things young people might do, or feel. Please circle the number 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 that best tells how often you did, or felt these things in the last 2 weeks. Think about the different places you may have done or felt these things, like at school, at home, or with friends (or at work, if you have a job).

	Over the past 2 weeks	Never	Hardly ever	Some- times	Often	Very often
1.	I felt threatened or bullied by others?	0	1	2	3	4
2.	I've had a hard time controlling my anger?	0	1	2	3	4
3.	I've felt nervous and/or shy around other people?	0	1	2	3	4
4.	I've worried that I'm not as good as other kids?	0	1	2	3	4
5.	I've worried about something bad happening to my parents?	0	1	2	3	4
6.	Activities have not been as fun as they used to be?	0	1	2	3	4
7.	I've been getting into fights with family members and/or friends?	0	1	2	3	4
8.	I've had a hard time sleeping because I was worried?	0	1	2	3	4
9.	I have felt unhappy or sad?	0	1	2	3	4
10.	I've had conflict with friends?	0	1	2	3	4
11.	I've gotten into trouble?	0	1	2	3	4
12.	I have not wanted to spend time with people as much as usual?	0	1	2	3	4
13.	My body has changed when I was worried/nervous?	0	1	2	3	4
14.	I've had thoughts about hurting myself on purpose?	0	1	2	3	4
15.	I have not listened to adults?	0	1	2	3	4
16.	I've been annoying other people on purpose?	0	1	2	3	4

If this is not your first session, please take a moment to give feedback on your most recent session to help us better serve your needs.	Not at all	Only a little	Some- what	Quite a bit	Totally
My therapist understands me?	0	1	2	3	4
My therapy sessions are helping me?	0	1	2	3	4

Name .	Today's Date:				PHQ9/GAD7		
	Over the <u>last 2 weeks</u> , how often have you been bothered by any of the following problems?	Not at all	Several days	More than hal the days	•		
1.	Little interest or pleasure in doing things						
2.	Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless						
3.	Trouble falling or staying asleep, or sleeping too much						
4.	Feeling tired or having little energy						
5.	Poor appetite or overeating						
6.	Feeling bad about yourself, or that you are a failure, or have let yourself or your family down						
7.	Trouble concentrating on things, such as reading the newspaper or watching television						
8.	Moving or speaking so slowly that other people could have noticed. Or the opposite-being so fidgety or restless that you have been moving around a lot more than usual						
9.	Thoughts that you would be better off dead, or of hurting yourself in some way						
10.	Feeling nervous, anxious or on edge						
11.	Not being able to stop or control worrying						
12.	Worrying too much about different things						
13.	Trouble relaxing						
14.	Being so restless that it is hard to sit still						
15.	Becoming easily annoyed or irritable						
16.	Feeling afraid as if something awful might happen						
If you checked off <u>any</u> problems, how <u>difficult</u> have these problems made it for you to do your work, take care of things at home, or get along with other people?		Not difficu at all		mewhat ifficult	Very difficult	Extremely Difficult	



Questions & Answers About Child/Adolescent Therapy

Q: What should my child and I expect at our first session?

When your child begins therapy, your therapist will meet with each of you, separately and/or together to gather as much information as possible, in order to assess what kinds of problems your child is experiencing. This information will be gathered by interview and by using questionnaire forms. At the end of your child's initial evaluation your therapist will discuss with you the frequency and modality of treatment that will best suit your child's needs.

Types of Therapy:

Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy

Q: What is cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT)?

CBT focuses on how a child thinks and what a child does. CBT is primarily concerned with the present and future rather than past events or unconscious motives. The therapist decides along with you and your child what behaviors and thinking patterns need to change.

Cognitive-behavioral therapy is different from other kinds of therapy in several ways. It is:

- Goal-oriented. It helps you and your child set goals, plan ways to achieve those goals, and check progress.
- Problem-focused. The therapist you and child work together to identify problem areas and what exactly needs to change.
- Active. CB therapists do not just sit back and silently nod as the child talks. They will actively listen to the child and ask meaningful questions.

CBT typically requires you and your child to complete weekly homework assignments. This helps the child change behaviors between sessions. It also cuts down on the number of sessions needed.

Q: What happens during a typical therapy session?

A family member who thinks there is a problem usually brings children and teens to therapy. Children often blame their problems on family members, teachers, or peers. They may not see how talking to a therapist about their problem will help. Therapists who specialize in working with children and teens are skilled in finding out what the child wants and needs. For example, do they want to stop being picked on by their peers? Get along better with family members? Feel better about themselves? This helps the therapist to motivate the child.

Behavioral Therapy

Q: What is behavioral therapy?

This type of therapy is very structured and goal oriented. It starts with what you and your child is doing now, and then helps both of you change your behavior. Behavioral therapists may use techniques such as:

- Exposure therapy or desensitization. First the child learns ways to relax. Then they will learn to face their fears while they practice these relaxation skills.
- Role-playing. This may help your child become better at solving conflict with peers.
- Self-monitoring, or keeping a log of their daily activities/behaviors. This may help identify which behaviors are causing your child problems.

Family Therapy

Q: What is family therapy?

Family therapy is a form of treatment that involves all members of the family rather than working with one person alone. It helps the whole family to make changes. Many child and teenage problems improve a great deal when the family changes how they deal with the child. By improving family relations, emotional or behavioral problems are also improved. In therapy the family will:

- Join in the treatment sessions.
- Seek to understand what family behaviors may help or hinder their child.
- Learn different family behaviors that will help the child to make positive changes.

Q: What happens during family therapy sessions?

For each session the therapist will ask to see all or some of the family members. At times, the therapist may ask to just see the parents or just the children. Who is asked to attend may change based on what the issues are and who is most involved with them. With children younger than 11 or 12, the therapist may divide sessions into individual time with children and time with parents. At the start of each session the therapist will check on what has happened around issues which are the focus of treatment. Next the therapist will chose 1 or 2 things to focus on. The therapist may ask family members to role-play how they talk about things or how they behave at home. The therapist will help the family understand the way they talk and act with each other. The family learns which behaviors are healthy and which are not. The therapist will come up with a plan for the family to change those interactions that are not helpful. This may involve practice in the session or assigned homework to practice out in the real world.

Play Therapy

Q: What is play therapy?

Play therapy uses many kinds of toys, games, and drama to help children learn to deal with frightening feelings/events and different emotions. Play therapy helps children express themselves without words. Play therapy can be helpful for children of all ages but is most often used for children between the ages of 3 and 12. Sometimes play therapy can involve the whole family. Usually, therapists work only with your child and regularly report their findings to you. They will also suggest how you can best support your child.

Q: What happens during play therapy sessions?

- The therapist will create a safe and interesting environment for your child. This helps the child to feel comfortable and to be willing to explore. Your child may use dolls, action figures, modeling clay, art supplies, or other toys to express themselves and work on their problems. The therapist will observe how your child plays with the toys, the feelings expressed, and any aggressive actions.
- In time, your child learns how to express feelings more appropriately and becomes less negative and less angry. Your child feels more positive and starts to see people and events in a more balanced way. It also may help your child handle difficult situations such as, peer conflict and bullying in a more positive way.

*Portions of the above information were taken from The Summit Medical Group Live Well Library.

