

CHOOSING the **STANDARD** or **RAPID ACCESS** PSYCHIATRIC ASSESSMENT

Standard Assessment: An advantage is that we can schedule this right now, and that it is two sessions and a more typical comprehensive assessment. But the disadvantage is that the appointments are actually months away (sometimes four or more months; please call for the date of the next opening).

Rapid Access Assessment: The advantage is that the appointment *may* be only weeks away (*this depends partly on you completing paperwork right away*). There are some potential disadvantages, including that it is only one session, is a more limited and focused assessment, and that we can not schedule right now, but do so only after you have done the few hours work needed to complete the *New Patient Packet* and get that back to us. Look at the Table, then if you want more detail read on.

| | STANDARD | RAPID ACCESS |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <i>When You Schedule</i> | Now | After Packet Returned |
| <i>Wait Time for Appointment</i> | Two-Four (+) Months | Two-Seven Weeks |
| <i>When Initial Packet Due</i> | At First Appointment | Before Scheduling |
| <i>When I Review Packet</i> | Between Appointments | Before 1st Appointment |
| <i>Number of Visits</i> | Two | One |
| <i>Scope of Assessment</i> | Two or More Diagnoses | One Diagnosis Focused |
| <i>Cost</i> | Same (\$55 for Packet) | Same (\$55 for Packet) |

The Standard is what is more commonly done in child psychiatry, involving a more comprehensive process, and may cover two or three diagnostic questions given the increased time. The Rapid Access usually addresses only one primary diagnostic question. The limited time for the Rapid means we must focus on what needs to be done right now. This does not mean that other assessment can't be done later, but it then comes in the form of a follow-up consultation typically months down the road. For this to work, I review the *New Patient Packet* before the appointment. To insure that this happens, we ask for the *Packet* to be returned before we actually schedule. For the Standard I can get the *Packet* at the first appointment.