

NavNeuro Ethics Vignette 1 (for episode 115: [www.NavNeuro.com/115](http://www.NavNeuro.com/115)):

An attorney refers you (the neuropsychologist) a patient who is involved in a worker's compensation case, where a neurologist is reporting cognitive symptoms after being kicked in the head while testing for Hoover's sign during a neurological examination. You recognize the name of the neurologist; she happens to be someone from a local practice who often refers patients to you. You haven't done any forensic work in training or independent practice, but you decide to take the case as a favor to your colleague. The attorney asks you to bill the evaluation to the patient's medical insurance company, and you agree. You also send the attorney a few hundred dollars as a referral fee, since that's usually what you charge for making referrals.

On the day of the evaluation you realize that the neurologist's primary language is Arabic (she has only been in the U.S. for ~10 years), so you decide to administer mostly "nonverbal" tests, some of which you have never given. You ask for a 15-minute break so you can find the tests online and review the instructions before you administer them. One of the tests is only available in its original version (there have since been a few revisions), but you assume it's close enough. You also use a new measure that you created so that you can use the results in a research article that you're in the process of writing up. After the patient leaves your office you remember you forgot to administer an important test, so you do a video-call with her through your daughter's Zoom account and administer the test.

After finishing the assessment the neurologist tells you that the testing you did was much more involved than what another neuropsychologist from a local practice typically does, which usually only consists of an MMSE but they bill for ten hours (which is usually a surprise for patients) and they call the report "comprehensive;" she says the clinician is usually able to help her differentiate between vascular pathology and Alzheimer's disease based on the MMSE findings. She tells you the name of the other clinician; when you look them up, you see that the person is not actually licensed, although they mention on their website that they have a PhD.

You call up the other clinician to inquire about his practices, telling him that your recent patient who is a local Arabic-speaking neurologist told you about him. The clinician tells you that he has a PsyD, so he is more than competent to conduct neuropsychological evaluations, and that he doesn't plan on changing his practice. You ask to see a copy of a recent report he completed but he tells you he doesn't keep copies of them.

Any issues here?