The 5 S’s Tool: Questions to Consider:
The “5 S’s” is a communication tool developed by the University of Maryland child psychiatric access project, the Behavioral Health Integration in Pediatric Primary Care (BHIPP) Project, as a framework to facilitate communication between the primary care provider and consulting psychiatrist during their brief telephone consultation call, in order to maximize communication and facilitate joint problem solving.¹

When calling the consult, in addition to providing the information in the Checklist, consider addressing these 5 dimensions (Safety, Specific Behaviors, Setting, Scary Things, Screening and Services):

**Safety**

- Do you have concerns about the patient safety?
- Do you feel comfortable treating this patient in your practice?
- Do you think this patient might be suicidal, homicidal, or at risk?
- Are you aware of the patient having any safety issues in the past?

**Specific Behaviors**

- What behaviors are causing the most problems?
- What is the patient doing that makes you think he has ___ (e.g. anxiety, ADHD, depression)?
- What thoughts/behaviors are most concerning to the child/family?

**Setting**

- Where and when are the problematic behaviors happening?
- How is the patient doing academically?
- How does the patient do with peers?
- How is the family managing the behavior?

**Scary Things**

- Has anything hard or scary happened to the patient or family?

**Screening/Services**

- Has the patient had any screening or assessments?
- Has the patient received therapy, medication, psychiatric hospitalization? Are you in touch with current behavioral health providers?
- What have you already tried?