

### **Evidence-Based Behavioral Health Practices** for Older Adults: A Guide to Implementation

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#### Improve Service Delivery with New Evidence-Based Guidelines

Geared to improve service delivery in the care of older adults, this new and more authoritative approach to practice and management is supported by the latest evidence-based guidelines from the leading experts in the field.

For the first time, behavioral health care providers can gain access to a more reliable source for implementing and improving service delivery protocols and practices. This new guide applies evidence-based criteria to the following patient care and management needs to help you:

- 1. Select an Evidence-Based Practice (EBP)
- 2. Assess Feasibility
- 3. Manage Quality
- 4. Create a Culturally Grounded Practice
- 5. Assess and Treat Depression, Anxiety, and Substance Use Disorders
- 6. Assess and Treat Dementia and Schizophrenia
- 7. Review by Service Delivery Process
- 8. Review within Special Settings
- 9. Create More Sustainable Services

Written primarily for program administrators and clinical supervisors, health care professionals in mental health and geriatric services, and teachers and students in the field of geriatric health care, much of the timely information contained in this book can be used as a reference for evidence-based geriatric behavioral health by people who work with elderly clients with mental health needs.

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#### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

"...critical reading for all those who seek to align behavioral health practices to the mental health needs of older adults." -- *Gary J. Kennedy, MD, Division of Geriatric Psychiatry Montefiore Medical Center* 

#### Review

"[This book] is the most recent phase of behavioral health services' journey toward greater empiricism. We have adopted criteria-based diagnoses, conducted controlled trials of interventions, and synthesized research findings into practice guidelines. A natural next step is to understand whether our clinical practice follows evidence-based guidelines and, if not, why not? And what can we do about it? Levkoff et al. have written an invaluable guide addressing these questions, tailored specifically to the needs of clinicians and managers who provide behavioral health services to older adults. This book offers a wealth of knowledge on effective interventions as well as state-of-the-art guidance on how to implement them. These are crucial steps to better health for older Americans."

--Richard C. Hermann, MD, MS, Director, Center for Quality Assessment and Improvement in Mental Health Associate Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry, Tufts University School of Medicine

"The American health care system is like the weather: rapidly changing but seemingly impervious to human improvement. Evidence based practice or EBP is the latest intervention offered to improve the health forecast. The empiricism of EBP is meant to supplant idiosyncratic practitioner habits and patient preferences which take hold when the scientific evidence of effective care is absent. The need for EBP is most obvious in behavioral health where the mentally ill, their providers and the data upon which good care is based are stigmatized as soft and unreliable. But to offer more than a passing fad those who champion the virtues of EBP must also point the way to implementation and sustainability. Such is the unique achievement of [this book]. The chapters succinctly review the evidence for better treatment of late life anxiety and depression, schizophrenia and dementia then expand upon techniques proven to implement and sustain the improved practices. Translating science into service would be little more than a cliché without books such as this. With the science in hand the authors and editors offer an architecture for change in which the emphasis is on the practical. As a result they give us a much needed guide to re-engineering the culture of behavioral health care. This work will be critical reading for all those who seek to align behavioral health practices to the mental health needs of older adults."

--Gary J. Kennedy, MD, Division of Geriatric Psychiatry, Montefiore Medical Center

"This book will facilitate the improvement of mental health services for older adults and their families by creating an easy to follow approach to EBP. Both clinicians and new investigators who work in mental

health will find this book to be a valuable asset. The cases make the strategies come alive."

#### --Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean, NYU Division of Nursing

#### From the Publisher

"Evidence-Based Practice is the most recent phase of behavioral health services' journey toward greater empiricism. We have adopted criteria-based diagnoses, conducted controlled trials of interventions, and synthesized research findings into practice guidelines. A natural next step is to understand whether our clinical practice follows evidence-based guidelines and, if not, why not? And what can we do about it? Levkoff et al. have written an invaluable guide addressing these questions, tailored specifically to the needs of clinicians and managers who provide behavioral health services to older adults. This book offers a wealth of knowledge on effective interventions as well as state-of-the-art guidance on how to implement them. These are crucial steps to better health for older Americans." -Richard C. Hermann, MD, MS, Director, Center for Quality Assessment and Improvement in Mental Health Associate Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry, Tufts University School of Medicine

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#### **Omar Lamm:**

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