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Edited by Linda Gask , Tony Kendrick , Robert Peveler , Carolyn A. Chew-Graham

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Second edition

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Contents

List of Contributors vii

Preface xi

Section 1 – Conceptual Basis and Overarching Themes

- 1 **What Is Primary Care Mental Health?** 1
Linda Gask, Tony Kendrick, Robert Peveler and Carolyn A. Chew-Graham
- 2 **The Epidemiology of Mental Illness** 12
Laura Thomas and Glyn Lewis
- 3 **A Sociological View of Mental Health and Illness** 24
Anne Rogers and David Pilgrim
- 4 **The Patient and Service User Perspective** 39
Sue Collinson and Linda Gask
- 5 **Primary Mental Health Care in Low- and Middle-Income Countries** 54
Mohan Isaac, Oye Gureje and Athula Sumathipala
- 6 **Diagnosis and Classification of Mental Illness: A View from Primary Care** 70
Linda Gask, Christopher Dowrick, Michael Klinkman and Oye Gureje

Section 2 – Clinical Issues

- 7 **Depression** 87
Tony Kendrick, Jane Gunn and Andre Tylee

- 8 **Suicide Prevention: Identification, Intervention and Mitigation of Risk** 103
Alys Cole-King and Siobhan O’Neill
- 9 **Anxiety** 125
Bruce Arroll and Tony Kendrick
- 10 **Medically Unexplained Symptoms** 138
Christopher Dowrick and Marianne Rosendal
- 11 **Mental Health Problems in Older People** 153
Eugene Tang, Carolyn A. Chew-Graham and Louise Robinson
- 12 **Mental Health and Long-Term Physical Conditions** 175
Peter A. Coventry and Stewart W. Mercer
- 13 **Perinatal Mental Health** 185
Debbie Sharp
- 14 **Common Child and Adolescent Mental Health Problems** 200
Roz Shafran, Anna Coughtrey and Isobel Heyman
- 15 **Psychosis** 213
Helen Lester and Irwin Nazareth
- 16 **Emergencies in Primary Care** 226
Tony Kendrick and Helen Lester

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>17 Drug Use Disorders 236
Martyn Hull and Ed Day</p> <p>18 Management of Alcohol Problems 251
Fiona Hamilton and Helen Lester</p> <p>19 Eating Disorders 267
Katie Lang and Ulrike Schmidt</p> <p>20 Physical Health of People with Mental Illness 277
Richard Holt, David Shiers and Robert Peveler</p> <p>21 Ethnic Minorities 300
Waquas Waheed and Carolyn A. Chew-Graham</p> <p>22 Asylum Seekers and Refugees 311
Angela Burnett</p> <p>23 Sexual Problems 327
Michael King</p> <p>24 Mental Health in Offenders and Prison Populations 343
Richard Byng and Andrew Forrester</p> <p>Section 3 – Policy and Practice</p> <p>25 Public Mental Health 353
Jonathan Campion</p> <p>26 The Role of the Primary Care Team 373
Mark Haddad</p> <p>27 Improving Access to Care 386
Simon Gilbody, Tony Kendrick and Linda Gask</p> | <p>28 Collaborative Care and Stepped Care: Effective Strategies for Managing Common Mental Disorders 401
David A Richards, Jacqueline J. Hill, Simon Gilbody, Peter A. Coventry and Linda Gask</p> <p>29 Psychological Therapies 420
Frances Cole, Karina Lovell, David Ekers and Linda Gask</p> <p>Section 4 – Reflective Practice</p> <p>30 Teaching and Learning about Mental Health 439
Linda Gask, Barry Lewis and David Goldberg</p> <p>31 Undertaking Mental Health Research in Primary Care 459
Tony Kendrick, Robert Peveler, Carolyn A. Chew-Graham, Linda Gask and Michael Moore</p> <p>32 Individual Treatment Decisions: Guidelines and Clinical Judgement 473
Tony Kendrick</p> <p>33 General Practitioners and Mental Health 480
Henry Allberry and Clare Gerada</p> <hr/> <p><i>Index</i> 488</p> |
|--|--|

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Preface

We were delighted to be invited by the Royal College of Psychiatrists to produce a second edition of this book, which has proved to be an important resource for clinicians, commissioners and policy makers in the emerging field of primary care mental health. However, we were also very sad that our original collaborator, the late Professor Helen Lester, who played such a large part in the success of the first edition, is no longer with us. Helen was passionate about the importance of treating people with severe mental illness in primary care and worked phenomenally hard to further the cause of better mental and physical health care for people with long-term mental health problems. She is much missed by her friends and colleagues and we remember the enormous energy she devoted to getting this book into print. For the second edition we are very pleased to welcome onto the editorial team Professor Carolyn A. Chew-Graham, an outstanding primary care mental health researcher, clinician and professional leader. Carolyn was a contributing author to the first edition of this book. We have retained the same overall structure consisting of four main sections: conceptual basis of primary care mental health and overarching themes, clinical issues, policy and practice and, to conclude, reflective practice. Most of the chapters have been substantially revised and we have included new topics, which have grown in importance since the previous edition, such as the mental health of people with long-term conditions and the provision of primary mental health care in prisons. There are also many new authors who have been involved in either revising or completely rewriting chapters. We hope that this new edition will continue to be of help to those of us who may be perceived by our colleagues to work on the 'edge' of primary care or psychiatry, but have actually been at the epicentre of innovations that will improve the lives of the great majority of people with mental health problems, who are cared for in primary care.

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