Mental Health A person-centred approach

Second edition

The second edition of *Mental Health: A person-centred approach* adopts an all-encompassing approach to engaging with, responding to and supporting people with mental illness and substance abuse. This substantially updated edition incorporates the latest mental health research, including a new chapter focusing on psychotropic medicines, while retaining the strong narrative approach of the first edition. Readers are encouraged to connect theory, practice and the lived experiences of consumers and carers.

Each chapter includes learning objectives, reflective questions, critical thinking questions, learning activities and further reading. 'Translation to practice' boxes consolidate key concepts and help to equip students with the requisite knowledge to become mental health practitioners. The diverse range of consumer and carer perspectives enhances readers' understanding of the process of recovery from mental illness, the use of mental health services and the provision of mental health support, by encouraging them to make human connections as they read.

Written by an expert author team, *Mental Health* remains an essential resource for students, supporting the development of safe, high-quality, person-centred care in both the Australian and New Zealand contexts.

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Edited by Nicholas Procter Helen P. Hamer Denise McGarry Rhonda L. Wilson Terry Froggatt



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Foreword: Carer

In 2013, I was waiting to turn right at the traffic lights when I suddenly became aware of a young man standing at the pedestrian crossing on the opposite side of the road. I looked again at the handsome face. The blonde hair cut in a style I remember so well. He was wearing blue jeans and a denim jacket. My heart skipped a beat. Once again, the universe had found a way to bring him back to me for a few moments. My son, Nicholas. My son who, in November 2000, had died in the psychiatric ward of a public hospital in Adelaide. He was 26 years old.

I'd visited Nicholas in hospital shortly before he died. We went for a walk in the grounds of the hospital that day, and I noticed one of the other patients, an elderly woman, was following us. We sat down on a bench and the woman came and stood close by. After a while Nicholas got up and walked over to the woman. He put his hand on her arm very gently and in a quiet voice I heard him say, 'My mother and I are having some time together, would you mind very much moving further away?' The woman nodded and without speaking moved away a little. We started to talk but we were interrupted again; this time the woman had started to sing. Looking over at Nicholas she sang to him. The words of the song were: 'A certain smile, a certain place can lead an unsuspecting heart on a merry chase.' It was an unlikely serenade but he listened attentively to her until she finished singing, then he turned back to me, and we continued our conversation.

At that moment I knew that despite the illness, his essential kindness hadn't left him. That despite the illness, the essence of Nicholas had not changed. I knew, too, that he'd let her know that she mattered. Was valued. He did it by listening to her story. A story that she had sung to him with the words of an old love story.

In this book you will meet courageous men and women who live with mental illness, and also the people who love and care for them. You will come to know their experiences through reading their stories. It has taken trust for them to share their stories; a trust in you, that as you read them it will be with an open as well as an inquiring mind.

Are stories important? My children when they were little seemed to think so. 'Tell me a story,' was a favourite way for them to push back the night, to delay the lights being put out, or to chase away a bad dream with a happy-ever-after ending.

As a young wife and mother of newly born twins and a little one-year-old daughter, Sarah, one of my favourite times was when an invitation would come from my kindly neighbour, Vivian, to 'put the kettle on'. I'd bundle the children into the big old pram and set off to her house across the road.

Sarah had been born with a major heart abnormality and was often in need of urgent medical attention. I was often anxious in those days, and the chance to talk it over with my neighbour, to 'tell her my story' was a great release. 'Tell me about it,'Vivian would say and sitting in the sunny family room, drinking cups of tea, I'd tell her about the worries of the day.

Often, it concerned me not being able to coax Sarah to eat or even drink very much. The medication that was prescribed to help regulate her little heart also had the unfortunate side-effect of being an appetite suppressant.

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vi) Foreword: Carer

'Is her colour too pale? Do her little fingers look blue to you?' I'd want to know. Sometimes, all I needed was simply reassurance that all was well. At other times we would decide that maybe it was best to call in the local doctor to have a look at Sarah. But always it was that listening ear – as well as wise counsel that my friend gave me – that was important to me.

The founders of Alcoholics Anonymous believed stories were important. The remarkable program of recovery from addiction devised by them includes the regular attendance of members at meetings, where they are encouraged to tell their stories and to listen to the stories of others. Along with the 12 steps or suggestions it is in the listening and in the telling of stories that Bill Wilson and Dr Bob believed a transformation could occur.

'Is it real or is it pretend?' my children would ask me sometimes as I'd start the bedtime story. The day that Nicholas arrived at my apartment and, looking wildly around, produced a notepad and pen and wrote 'Don't talk. We are being monitored by agents ... 'I knew that the pretend story he was writing was very real to him. I tried to reassure him that he was safe, but the words I wrote on the notepad that he gave me didn't help him. I knew that he was very ill, that something was terribly wrong. Eventually, I phoned a friend and together we managed to get Nicholas into my car and drove to the hospital. He was admitted immediately. A few hours later I was told that he'd been transferred to a psychiatric ward and that the diagnosis was drug-induced psychosis.

Nicholas was 22 years old when this first admission occurred. He'd been studying at university and had an ambition to become a writer. But after this time his life changed; there were more hospital admissions and he was diagnosed with mental illness and drug dependency – comorbidity.

Over the following four years there were some periods of relative well-being. Nicholas spent a number of times at a Buddhist retreat in New South Wales and learned the practice of meditation. He travelled to India and Nepal. He fell in love and told me that one day they would have an amazing child together. He tried to get back to studying again.

But drugs came back into his life, and this time the anti-psychotic medication he'd been prescribed was not effective. Nicholas rang me to tell me that he'd decided to go into hospital as a voluntary patient, to be introduced to a drug his doctor advised might help him. 'Clonazepam does have risks of major side-effects and would need to be carefully monitored', I was advised by his doctor. 'It's worth a try, Mum', he told me as I drove with him to the hospital. He was admitted and commenced the process of coming off one anti-psychotic medication and being introduced to another.

Sometime later Nicholas rang me from the hospital. 'I've decided to quit drugs, Mum, and I'm going to start a methadone treatment tomorrow.' He went on to explain that it was all arranged. The hospital would organise a taxi to take him to the nearby clinic, and then after he'd been given the methadone a taxi would be called to return him back to the hospital. He'd decided to turn his life around. A new medication for the mental illness and a new treatment to come off heroin. He rang me the night before he died and we talked about the new treatments. We ended the call as we always did: 'I love you, Mum', he told me. 'And I love you too, Nicholas ... '

Three days after starting the methadone treatment combination with Clonazepam Nicholas was found dead on the floor near his hospital bed. The autopsy result was death due to mixed drug toxicity. A coroner's report two years later resulted in a verdict of 'accidental death by drug toxicity', with strong recommendations of changes to procedures by hospital administration in relation to treatment of drug withdrawal combined with certain anti-psychotic drugs.

A week after Nicholas died I had a call from the hospital's social worker, who offered to deliver his possessions that were left at the hospital. They were given to me in a green plastic bin-liner. His doona with a large blood stain. Although I'd read in the autopsy report of the internal haemmorhage he'd had moments before he died, I had not understood that reality until I saw the bloodstained doona. His Doc Martens. Blue jeans. A denim jacket. A tee shirt with 'Champion' written across the front. A portable chess set. A transistor radio. A writing pad and biro. The book he'd been

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Foreword: Carer

vii

reading, with a piece of paper folded as a bookmark, Gore Vidal's *Judgement of Paris*. There was also a black wallet I'd given him a few years earlier. Neatly tucked into one of the folds was a receipt. It was dated two days before he died. It was a receipt for a layby; a \$5 deposit on a black leather jacket at St Vincent de Paul's Opportunity Shop. The shop was near the clinic where Nicholas had gone to receive the methadone treatment.

In those last days he'd been creating a new life for himself -

A new medication to take away the psychosis

A way out of dependency on drugs

And a new-to-him black leather jacket to wear.

He'd been creating a happy-ever-after ending to his story.

To all the students reading this book, I wish you every success with your studies. It's my belief that mental illness is one of the great challenges of our time. To find a cure for schizophrenia. A medication without major side-effects. To care for people with mental illness in times of crisis with insight and compassion ... these are my hopes for you.

Margaret O'Donnell

Foreword: Consumer

The best nurse I ever had walked beside me and never got in my way. She would appear unobtrusively by my side and gently encourage me to get off my bed and go for walks with her. She hardly said a thing to me, but I could feel her calmness and acceptance through all the static of my distress. Other nurses got in my way; they tore off my blankets, threatened me, berated me for being inappropriate or for not facing the world, or gave me strange looks when I expressed my pain.

In their training and professional development, nurses learn many things – much of it is irrelevant to the experience of the person using the service. I do not remember any of the nurses I encountered for their professional skills. But I do remember them for their human qualities. Above all, I remember the nurses who were kind and compassionate.

Compassion is hard to teach and impossible to enforce, but it is the single most important attribute any mental health professional needs to develop. Compassion means being able to stand in the shoes of the other and be with the person in her or his distress. It allows the helper to stand on the ledge between deflecting the other person's pain and losing herself or himself in it. Compassion takes a strong sense of self, patience and an acceptance of difference.

Unfortunately, compassion cannot thrive in services that control people and pathologise their experience. A recovery based, trauma-informed service promotes people's autonomy, respects their subjectivity and does not tolerate iatrogenic harm; this is the best setting for compassion to grow. Wherever we work in the mental health system we have a responsibility to foster compassion, not only in our one-to-one relationships with the people who use the service and our colleagues, but in creating a service environment that encourages empowering and respectful relationships at all levels. A person-centred service is meaningless without compassion.

Mental Health: A person-centred approach is a recovery based text for undergraduate nurses in Australia and New Zealand. This book is a compass on your journey to becoming a mental health nurse whose compassion service users will remember.

Mary O'Hagan

(viii

Contents

Foreword: Carer by Margaret O'Donnell	V
Foreword: Consumer by Mary O'Hagan	
About the authors	
Acknowledgements	
How to use this book	xxii
1 Introduction to mental health and mental illness: Human	
connectedness and the collaborative consumer narrative	1
Nicholas Procter, Amy Baker, Kirsty Baker, Lisa Hodge and Monika Ferguson	
Introduction	2
A narrative approach to mental health	3
Trauma-informed practice	4
Defining mental health and mental illness	5
Mental health nursing	15
Mental state assessment	17
Collaborative practice in mental health nursing	19
Chapter summary	23
Critical thinking/learning activities	24
Learning extension	24
Further reading	24
References	25
2 Learning through human connectedness on clinical placement:	
Translation to practice	29
Denise McGarry	
Introduction	30
Mental health (nursing) education: An overview	30
Attitudes, expectations and positive engagement within practice	32
Application of interpersonal skills within the mental health practicum	
placement and other, non-mental health settings	35
Development of emotional competence	38
Reflective practice as a critical thinking process	38
Clinical supervision for the beginning/novice student within mental health nursing	39
Developing objectives for clinical placements	41
The process of self-assessment and personal problem solving	43

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ix

Cambridge University Press 978-1-316-62020-5 — Mental Health 2nd Edition Nicholas Procter , Helen P. Hamer , Denise McGarry , Rhonda L. Wilson , Terry Froggatt Frontmatter <u>More Information</u>

x)	Contents	
	Ethical and political influences on care	44
	And off to clinical placement: Pragmatic strategies for learning	45
	Chapter summary	50
	Critical thinking/learning activities	51
	Learning extension	51
	Further reading	52
	References	52
	3 Māori mental health	57
	Jacquie Kidd and Kerri Butler	
	Introduction	58
	Kawa whakaruruhau (cultural safety)	59
	Whānau ora	61
	Hauora (health) and oranga (wellness)	62
	Engagement with tangata whai i te ora: The Ten Commitments	64
	Chapter summary	69
	Critical thinking/learning activities	70
	Learning extension	70
	Further reading	70
	References	71
	4 The social and emotional well-being of Aboriginal	
	Australians and the collaborative consumer narrative	73
	Debra Hocking	
	Personal narratives by Barbara O'Neill and Sandra Murphy	
	Introduction	74
	Social and emotional well-being versus mental health	74 75
		75
	Colonisation	75
	Aboriginal worldviews	78
	Government policies	78
	The incidence of trauma	83
	The concept of healing	85
	Chapter summary	88
	Critical thinking/learning activities	89
	Learning extension	89
	Acknowledgement	90
	Further reading	90
	References	91
	5 Assessment of mental health and mental illness	93
	Terry Froggatt and Susan Sumskis	
	Introduction	94
	The meaning of mental health within health assessment	94
		01

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-62020-5 — Mental Health
2nd Edition
Nicholas Procter , Helen P. Hamer , Denise McGarry , Rhonda L. Wilson , Terry Froggatt
Frontmatter
More Information

	Content
Person-centred care and therapeutic communication within assessment	95
Listening to understand, as opposed to listening to respond	97
The mental health assessment process	98
Comprehensive assessment	100
Diagnosis of mental illness	106
Trauma-informed care	110
Chapter summary	115
Critical thinking/learning activities	116
Learning extension	116
Acknowledgements	116
Further reading	116
References	117
6 Use of psychotropic medicines in mental health care	121
Mark Loughhead, Simon Bell and Nicholas Procter	
Introduction	122
Why do I need to know about the use of medicines?	122
Community beliefs and understanding of psychiatric medicines	124
Medicines used in mental health care	126
Shared decision-making in mental health treatment	133
Clinical practice and experience of medicine	138
Quality use of medicines and medicine reviews	141
Chapter summary	144
Critical thinking/learning activities	145
Learning extension	145
Further reading	145
References	146
7 Legal and ethical aspects in mental health care	151
Helen P. Hamer, Debra Lampshire and Terry Froggatt	
Introduction	152
A legal and ethical framework for practice	152
A background to mental health law	154
Human rights, the law and intellectual disability	158
Procedural justice and mental health practice	161
Alternatives to compulsory treatment and the role of advance directives and crisis plans	165
Mental health legislation in the year 2042	166
Chapter summary	168
Critical thinking/learning activities	168
Learning extension	169
Further reading	169
	169

Contents

(xii)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-62020-5 — Mental Health
2nd Edition
Nicholas Procter , Helen P. Hamer , Denise McGarry , Rhonda L. Wilson , Terry Frogga
Frontmatter
More Information

Rhonda L. Wilson
Introduction
Harm minimisation
An overview of substance-use problems
An overview of drugs and their effects
An holistic framework for understanding people who use drugs and those
who misuse drugs
Mental health conditions and substance-use problems in combination
with each other
Mental health and drug and alcohol models of care
Chapter summary
Critical thinking/learning activities
Learning extension
Acknowledgement
Further reading
References
9 Nutrition, physical health and behavioural change
Denise McGarry and Anne Storey
Introduction
Prevalence
Comorbidity
Common physical illnesses and conditions
Complementary and alternative therapies and mental health care
Interventions
Chapter summary
Critical thinking/learning activities
Learning extension
Further reading
References
10 Mental health of people of immigrant and refugee backgrounds
Nicholas Procter, Amy Baker, Mary Anne Kenny and Monika Ferguson
Introduction
What is meant by the terms refugee, immigrant and asylum seeker?
Temporary protection
Mental health of people of immigrant and refugee backgrounds
Culture and explanatory models in mental health
Isolation
Engagement with mainstream mental health services
Traumatic stress
Access and engagement when in distress
Trust and human connectedness in mental health

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-62020-5 — Mental Health
2nd Edition
Nicholas Procter, Helen P. Hamer, Denise McGarry, Rhonda L. Wilson, Terry Froggatt
Frontmatter
More Information

	Contents	xiii
Older people of immigrant background	252	
Chapter summary	254	
Critical thinking/learning activities	255	
Learning extension	255	
Acknowledgement	256	
Further reading	256	
References	257	
11 Gender, sexuality and mental health	260	
Helen P. Hamer, Joe Macdonald, Jane Barrington and Debra Lampshire		
Introduction	261	
Continua of sexuality and gender	261	
Maternal mental health	266	
Culturally competent human connectedness	267	
Interpersonal and intimate partner abuse, bullying and psychological trauma	271	
Interpersonal trauma and mental health	273	
Trauma-informed care: Theory into practice	275	
Chapter summary	280	
Critical thinking/learning activities	281	
Learning extension	282	
Further reading	282	
References	283	
12 Mental health of children and young people	288	
Rhonda L. Wilson and Serena Riley		
Introduction	289	
Respect for young people	289	
Developing a rapport with young people	290	
Developmental stages	292	
Reducing risk and vulnerability	292	
Mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention for young people	295	
Common mental health conditions in young people	299	
Chapter summary	301	
Critical thinking/learning activities	302	
Learning extension	302	
Acknowledgement	302	
Further reading	302	
References	303	
13 Mental health of older people	306	
Helen P. Hamer, Debra Lampshire and Sue Thomson		
Introduction	307	
Recovery	309	
Culture of older people	310	

Cambridge University Press 978-1-316-62020-5 — Mental Health 2nd Edition Nicholas Procter , Helen P. Hamer , Denise McGarry , Rhonda L. Wilson , Terry Froggatt Frontmatter <u>More Information</u>



Human connectedness	311
When things go wrong: Common mental health conditions	314
Cognitive decline, depression, delirium or dementia? Getting the d	liagnosis right 315
An ethical framework to underpin practice	319
Considerations for the future of older people's mental health care	319
Chapter summary	323
Critical thinking/learning activities	324
Learning extension	324
Further reading	324
References	325
14 Rural and regional mental health	332
Rhonda L. Wilson	
Introduction	333
What is <i>rural</i> ?	333
Overview of the rural and regional clinical contexts	335
Prevalence of mental health problems in rural and regional commu	inities 339
Rural mental health promotion and prevention	341
Travel implications for rural people with mental health care needs	345
Natural disasters and the implications for rural communities	346
Agriculture, mining and itinerant workforces	347
Chapter summary	348
Critical thinking/learning activities	349
Learning extension	349
Acknowledgement	350
Further reading	350
References	350
15 e-Mental health	353
Rhonda L. Wilson	
Introduction	354
What is e-mental health?	354
Implications of mental health care using the phone in your pocket	355
Social media policy and guidelines	362
Cost-effectiveness and quality of e-mental health digital services	362
Designing health information for digital environments	364
e-Mental health literacy	365
Digital interventions and blended care	366
Commercial and social enterprise innovation in e-mental health	366
Opportunities for safe e-mental health development	367
Chapter summary	368
Critical thinking/learning activities	369
Learning extension	369
Acknowledgement	370

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-62020-5 — Mental Health
2nd Edition
Nicholas Procter , Helen P. Hamer , Denise McGarry , Rhonda L. Wilson , Terry Froggatt
Frontmatter
More Information

		Contents	xv
	Further reading	370	
	References	371	
16	Mental health in the interprofessional context	374	
De	enise McGarry and Anne Storey		
	Introduction	375	
	Historical professional precedents	375	
	Arguments for an interprofessional mental health workforce	376	
	The composition of the mental health workforce: Preparation and scope of practice	376	
	Regulation of the mental health workforce	385	
	Effectiveness of interprofessional workforces	387	
	Chapter summary	394	
	Critical thinking/learning activities	395	
	Learning extension	395	
	Acknowledgements	395	
	Further reading	395	
	References	396	
17		398	
Nic	cholas Procter and Mark Loughhead		
	Introduction	399	
	A message of leadership	399	
	The need to self-question	400	
	Clinical mentoring and empowerment	401	
	References	403	
Inc	dex	405	
Inc	A message of leadership The need to self-question Clinical mentoring and empowerment References	399 400 401 403	

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Cambridge University Press 978-1-316-62020-5 — Mental Health 2nd Edition Nicholas Procter , Helen P. Hamer , Denise McGarry , Rhonda L. Wilson , Terry Froggatt Frontmatter <u>More Information</u>

(xvii)

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Debra Lampshire is an expert by experience and a professional teaching fellow with the University of Auckland and has an extensive background as a mental health educator. She is employed by Auckland District Health Board as a project manager for the psychological interventions for an enduring mental illness project. In this unique and innovative position Debra works in the clinical setting, leading the development of psychological strategies for positive symptoms of psychosis, and she is the first non-clinician to do so. She is New Zealand chairperson of the International Society for Psychological and Social Interventions for Psychoses (ISPS) and a member of the international executive committee for ISPS. Debra received both the 'Making a Difference' award and the Supreme award from Attitude ACC for her leadership in mental health in New Zealand and internationally.

Mark Loughhead is the inaugural lecturer of lived experience in mental health within the School of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of South Australia. His work aims to promote the values of consumer experience, personal recovery and person-centred care within nursing practice. Mark blends lived experience perspectives within a framework of contemporary policy, research and practice topics. These include peer work and recovery orientated practice, shared decision-making, culturally safe health care, health literacy, consumer-centred care and trauma-informed practice. Mark's background includes 20 years' social work experience in community mental health, consumer advocacy and transcultural mental health.

Joe Macdonald works as Rainbow Liaison and Trainer at Affinity Services, a not-for-profit mental health service in Auckland, New Zealand. Joe has an MA in gender studies, sociology and social work from Otago University. They are particularly interested in depathologising sex, gender and sexuality, and advocating for clearer pathways of care for transgender and non-binary gender people.

Serena Riley RN BN (UNE). Serena recently completed a Bachelor of Nursing degree and in 2017 commenced the new Graduate Transition to Professional Practice program at Armidale Hospital, Hunter New England Health in New South Wales. Through personal experience as a consumer, she has acquired a unique understanding of the therapeutic care provided for mental illness within the Australian health care system. Her extensive humanitarian work in countries such as India, South Africa, Uganda and Greece has also provided Serena with a lived experience of the way in which mental health is addressed cross-culturally.

Anne Storey is a credentialled mental health nurse and works for Sydney Local Health District as a clinical nurse educator in community mental health. She is in the final stages of completing a Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) degree.

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About the authors

xix

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Angie Bulic is a graduate intern paramedic in regional New South Wales.

Edwina Casey RN. Edwina completed her nursing degree at the University of New England in 2012. Throughout that time, she found her mental health placement one of the most eye-opening clinical placements she had experienced. Not only did she find mental health a completely different aspect of nursing, but she found it a demanding, yet a very rewarding area of nursing to be a part of – one that many nurses and other health professionals underestimate. Edwina is in her new graduate year and is working in Hobart, Tasmania, in a cardiothoracic ward. Edwina encourages nursing students to make the most of their mental health unit and clinical placement, and to rise to the challenge of promoting a greater awareness of mental health in rural and remote areas in Australia.

Sally Drummond is a registered nurse and credentialled mental health nurse at Charles Sturt University, in New South Wales.

Kristen Ella is an Aboriginal woman whose family originated from the Yuin nation, in southern New South Wales. She is the Aboriginal Mental Health Clinician on the Aboriginal Infant Maternal Health Service team, based on the central coast of New South Wales.

Matthew Halpin is an established leader in the peer work movement in South Australia. He currently is the Coordinator – Lived Experience Workforce, Central Adelaide Local Health Network, SA Health.

James Robert Hindman MBA MBusMan BN. James has worked in a variety of roles in emergency mental health care in regional and rural New South Wales. He has an interest in education and teaching, and has worked in paramedic programs at Charles Sturt University.

Cindi McCormick has 15 years experience in public mental health. She has worked in community mental health as a clinical nurse specialist and as nurse unit manager, as a district nurse educator working with nurses transitioning into mental health nursing, with undergraduate nursing students and with trainee Aboriginal mental health workers. She now works in patient safety and quality services.

Paul McNamara RGN RPN BN MMHN Cert IMH CMHN FACMHN. Paul is a credentialled mental health nurse working Cairns. Paul has established an extensive professional social media portfolio using the homophone 'meta4RN' (read as either 'metaphor RN' or 'meta for RN'). For more information about Paul see his website meta4RN.com and/or follow @meta4RN on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube or Instagram.

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Stephanie Webster is a consumer educator who has delivered mental health education from a lived experience perspective since 2006.

Limor Weingarten is a registered nurse with extensive experience working in residential rehabilitation services for people experiencing serious mental illness. Her passion is to enhance the status, knowledge and skills of nurses working in mental health, and to improve the quality of life for people in residential and hospital settings.

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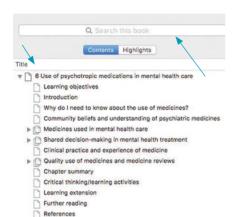
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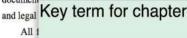
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Navigation and search

Move between pages and sections in multiple ways, including via the linked table of contents and the search tool.

> text of team communication and collaborative working relationships. Guidelines in communicating through written document



practice must be effective at producing shared meaning between people. For this reason, the chapter begins with an overview of the process of interpersonal communication and what makes it effective. The emphasis is on the formation of professional relationships with patients and col-

Highlight

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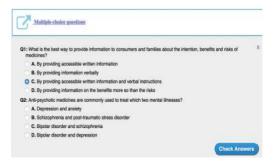
Multiple-choice questions

Open the multiple-choice questions pop-up box, select your choice of correct answers and click 'check answers' to assess your results. Note that this box can be moved about the page in order for you to read text while choosing your responses.

xxii)

of these Key terms

Hover over bolded terms to display pop-up definitions of key concepts.



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How to use this book

xxiii

Short-answer questions

Read the question and type your answer in the box. Submit your answers to view the guided solutions and assess your results. Note that the solution pop-ups can be moved about the page.



Critical thinking question Country of the production to successfully manage issues associated with medicines use Country organic support from peers (seer vorkers) Mental health practitioners are recognising that many consumers need assistance to develop the motivation to engage in dietary and exercise practices, and to consistently take the medicines that are prescribed for them. Some programs involve peer vorkers and a coaching approach for motivation, whereby consumers have ongaing support and peer role models to draw upon. Some practitioners use motivational interviewing, which is a counselling approach that encourages consumers to assess their motivations for change and make decisions about their readness and commitment to try new practices.

Critical thinking questions

Throughout and at the end of chapters, respond to the critical thinking questions and use the guided solutions to assess your response. Note that the solution pop-ups can be moved about the page.

Videos

View relevant video content to extend your knowledge on the topics presented in the book. Click the icon, which links to the video. Shared decision-making at the Mayo Clinic: Dr Victor Montori



Shared decision-making is becoming an important practice across the whole of health care. The health practitioner in this video describes the aims and steps of the approach, and outlines the considerations that need to be in place for decision-making to be a shared process between consumers and health practitioners.

What would need to be in place for shared decision-making to be achievable in mental health care?

Connecting with practice

NHS (2014): We must improve medication safety in mental health care

https://www.england.nhs.uk/2014/05/med-safety-mh

In this article, the NHS National Clinical Director of Mental Health, Dr Geraldine Strathdee, introduces a range of themes regarding medication safety and mental health care.

Awareness continues to grow in many health care systems about the need to address adverse events associated with psychotropic medicines, improve the ways in which medicines are prescribed and promote alternative forms of treatment to reduce reliance. As suggested, this requires improvements in the ways in which health practitioners support consumers in their use of medicines, as well as development of our systems of medicine management and safety.

How are the challenges associated with using psychotropic medicines related to the health inequities apparent for people living with mental illness?

Connecting with practice

Visit industry-related websites to understand real-world examples of the theories and concepts covered in the text.