

Book Reviews

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Quality Indicators: Defining and Measuring Quality in Psychiatric Care for Adults and Children (Report of the APA Task Force on Quality Indicators and Report of the APA Task Force on Quality Indicators for Children)

by the American Psychiatric Association. American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc., Washington, D.C., 2002, 205 pages, \$30.95 (paper).

This monograph represents the American Psychiatric Association's (APA) response to the growing call for measurement of health care quality. In 1997 the APA established the Task Force on Quality Indicators to develop clinically based, patient-focused quality indicators applicable to the treatment of adult psychiatric patients. This task force issued its report in March 1999. Subsequently, the APA established a similar task force to address the development of quality indicators important in the psychiatric care of children, which issued its report in October 2001. Both task forces set goals to offer sample indicators of quality rather than attempt to compile comprehensive compendiums of indicators. The 2 task force reports are presented in their entireties.

Each report reviews the following: recent trends in quality measurement, the increasing use of quality measures by accrediting organizations, reasons for the APA's commissioning of the task force report, overall goals of the task force, processes used to develop the report, definitions of terms used in the report, principles used to guide selection of indicators, and the framework developed to facilitate the identification of important indicators of quality. The reviews are followed by a summary of the recommended goals and related indicators developed for the different domains of care. The domains of access, quality/appropriateness of care, perceptions of care/satisfaction, and outcome are addressed by each report, while the additional domain of prevention is addressed by the children's report.

The main section of each report consists of a workbook of quality indicators in which the proposed goals and indicators are reviewed in depth, with sample measures and standards applicable to each indicator offered. The children's report includes 2 sections not found in the initial task force report: a glossary of terms and definitions used and an index of surveys, rating scales, and instruments discussed.

The text is succinct and clear, and the authors do not assume specific expertise in the area of quality monitoring. Terminology specific to quality monitoring and service provision is either clearly defined in the text or included in the glossary section (in the children's report).

In the workbook section, the discussions following each recommended goal provide an excellent review of current knowledge related to that goal. Comments are offered regarding the validity of proposed standards and practical considerations in data collection processes. The 2 additional sections in the children's report enhance its utility. The inclusion of an extensive glossary section highlights the need for a clear understand-

ing of terminology as a necessary prerequisite for quality measurement and improvement efforts.

This monograph is recommended for those involved in the monitoring and improvement of mental health services within systems that directly provide care and for those who authorize and finance the provision of mental health services. The structured process utilized by the task forces provides an excellent model for efforts to define additional, clinically meaningful quality indicators. Individual clinicians may also find the discussions informative, both as an introduction to the area of quality monitoring and as an impetus to examine their current practice patterns in light of increasing demands for implementation of evidence-based practices in the routine course of patient care.

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Concise Guide to Pain Management for Psychiatrists

by Raphael J. Leo, M.D. American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc., Washington, D.C., 2003, 245 pages, \$29.95 (paper).

The book meets its goal as part of the Concise Guide series to provide physicians with a quick review of and easy access to practical information about pain medicine and pain management.

Pain Management for Psychiatrists is divided into 10 sections complemented by tables that provide a ready, quick reference guide in salient clinical situations. Figures and illustrations also help augment the text. It is written with the psychiatrist in mind, providing a concise synopsis for the clinician as well as serving as a pocket reference with information on drugs, dosage range, and clinical syndromes, to name a few.

Sections deal with anatomy, pathology, and physiology, as well as psychopathology. Attention is given to evincing the multidimensional nature of the challenge posed for clinicians who choose to care for and treat patients who suffer from chronic pain disorders.

This text reviews the evaluation of the pain patient, the pharmacology of pain, treatment techniques, common pain disorders, and special populations. Issues pertaining to addictions, substance abuse, and opioid maintenance therapy are discussed, including the controversies that arise with the management of patients with chronic nonmalignant pain.

Dr. Leo's holistic approach is based on the biopsychosocial model. He provides a cohesive review, written from the unique perspective that the psychiatric practitioner brings to pain medicine, that I am pleased to recommend as a useful resource for the clinician.

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