

experience of US-based clinicians would still be of interest to a more global readership. A chapter explicitly focused on a framework for recovery-oriented practice and the maintenance of positive mental health for older people could also be a useful inclusion for a second edition. This is of increasing importance for a specialty that has in the past been beset by widespread therapeutic pessimism and professional ignorance leading to under-treatment of patients, reducing their quality of life, and the maintenance of stigma and prejudice. Some readers in jurisdictions other than the United States may also take ongoing issue with the term 'Geriatric' in the title of this book and other manuals, where this term referring to the healthcare of older people may have pejorative connotations and thus terminology with less ageist or offensive overtones is often preferred. This is certain to reflect cultural and linguistic differences rather than any ageist bias by the authors, but illustrates a healthy debate and ongoing effort by many professionals working with older patients, to use language that is value free, precise and accurate and is not just politically correct or petty semantics.

In summary, this text is a comprehensive, practically relevant and user-friendly guide to the field of mental healthcare of older people. It is a condensed volume of less than 300 pages that, nonetheless, represents a formidable piece of scholarship and achieves the status of being a valuable field guide for practising clinicians that will avoid the dust accumulation and shelf residence that has befallen similar titles.

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Mental Health and Deafness. Edited by Margaret du Feu and Cathy Chovaz (320pp.; ISBN 978-0-19-986075-3). OUP: USA, 2014

The assessment and management of mental health difficulties for deaf people has been largely ignored by mental health services. This book is really inspiring; it is written by two relevant mental health professionals

who are deaf themselves, and who have written this book to assist other clinicians with limited experience in the area of deafness and comorbid mental health problems. The authors start this book from the fact that any clinician working in generic mental health services would come across at least one patient with comorbid deafness, both considering children and adult patients. Generally, education and training on the main aspects of mental health for this particular population is practically inexistent. In this book, Margaret du Feu and Cathy Chovaz try to address this problem by providing applicable scientific information and sharing their vast clinical experience in the field.

The authors first focus on the main facts surrounding deafness, its prevalence in the general population, the most common causes and the different types of deafness, as well as the most commonly associated comorbid disabilities. They describe valuable information regarding the historical and social context of deafness, and they highlight several aspects of the sign language and the modern developments of cochlear implants. The book then follows the life journey of the deafness from the psychological development of deaf children, their educational phases and parental reactions to deafness; to the clinical assessment and management of mental health problems or illnesses in the deaf adolescent, adult and older person. Furthermore, the authors outline the main psychiatric diagnoses and the increased risk for longer periods of untreated illness owing to difficulties in relation to assessment and the lack of specific training for mental health professionals. Margaret du Feu and Cathy Chovaz show also interest in the legal aspects and forensic issues of this particular population and they finish the book with recommendations for better service development. Most mental health policies specifically state that access to services should be provided to everyone in an equitable way and that should not be discrimination against any group on grounds of age, gender, ethnicity, culture or disability. Despite this, whenever mental health services for deaf people have developed, they have grown in response to previously unmet needs. The authors recommend that deaf mental health services need to work closely with the deaf community and its organisations in order to achieve the right of every deaf person to have a full and equal access to mental health care.

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