



# Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis in Social Work Practice

By Jacqueline Corcoran, Joseph Walsh

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**Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis in Social Work Practice** By Jacqueline Corcoran, Joseph Walsh

This revolutionary, user-friendly textbook not only guides social workers in developing competence in the DSM system of diagnosis, it also assists them in staying attuned during client assessment to social work values and principles: a focus on client strengths, concern for the worth and dignity of individuals, appreciation of environmental influences on behavior, and commitment to evidence-informed practice.

The authors, seasoned practitioner-scholars, provide an in-depth exploration of fourteen major mental disorders that social workers commonly see in practice, including anxiety disorders, depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. They skillfully integrate several perspectives in order to help practitioners meet the challenges they will face in client assessment. A risk and resilience framework helps social workers understand environmental influences on the emergence of mental disorders and the strengths that clients already possess. Social workers will also learn to apply critical thinking to the DSM when it is inconsistent with social work values and principles. Finally, the authors catalog the latest evidence-based assessment instruments and treatments for each disorder so that social workers can intervene efficiently and effectively, using the best resources available.

Students and practitioners alike will appreciate the wealth of case examples, evidence-based assessment instruments, treatment plans, and new social diversity sections that make this an essential guide to the assessment and diagnostic processes in social work practice.

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#### **Review**

."..a breath of fresh air...this volume does not limit its scope and succeeds admirably for it. Corcoran and Walsh's book should be a required reference for every clinical social worker with an interest in evidence-based practice."--PsycCRITIQUES

"Corcoran and Walsh's book provides a mindful introduction to assessment and diagnosis for social workers, informed by the DSM. The authors acknowledge the limitations of this clinical perspective and provide a critical review of the notion of disorder while building bridges between a person-in-environment perspective and the process of assessment and diagnosis."--International Social Work

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#### **About the Author**

Jacqueline Corcoran, PhD, is Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work.

Joseph Walsh, PhD, is Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work.

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