

Making Accurate Diagnoses: Ethical Considerations

Accuracy in diagnosis and record-keeping is critical for treatment planning and documentation of medical necessity. Ethical codes from various organizations will be presented throughout the talk to emphasize the issues that need to be addressed. Misdiagnosis is common. Therapists can think more deliberately by using critical thinking and by being aware of ways to reduce the likelihood of cognitive biases. You will have a practical, systematic way of making diagnoses using the DSM-5-TR by being aware of questionnaires that can facilitate the gathering of necessary information. Cultural factors will also be considered within the context of the DSM-5-TR and the ethical codes. There will be a focus on differential diagnoses in exploring major depressive disorder and PTSD.

Target Audience		
Psychologists Therapists	Social Workers Psychiatrists	Counselors Nurses
Course level: Intermediate		

Learning Objectives

At the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:

1. Identify ethical code sections relevant to assessment, diagnoses and cultural factors and use critical thinking and debiasing techniques to be able to challenge their own diagnostic conclusions to increase accuracy
2. Use a roadmap to diagnosis that incorporates a wider range of step-by-step information into reaching a diagnosis and writing better treatment plans
3. Explain how DSM-5-TR is organized and how the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-5 and other questionnaires can enhance accuracy and comprehensiveness
4. Explain how cultural factors are discussed in the DSM-5-TR
5. Apply these techniques to the evaluation of depression and PTSD so that differential diagnoses can be made

Seminar Schedule

The webinar outline is attached. See the Live Webinar page for the start and end times.

Outline

Begin: 1 pm ET:

Ethical issues

Why is accurate diagnosis so important?

Critical thinking: Logic and debiasing techniques

Roadmap to diagnosis

Break: 2:30-2:45 ET

Exploring the DSM-5-TR: history, overview and application

Using the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-5-CV and other interviews and questionnaires

Cultural factors in the DSM-5-TR

Differential diagnosis with major depressive disorder and PTSD

End: 4:15

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Continuing Education Credit

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The Presenter

Dr. Williams is a licensed psychologist in California (PSY6047), Washington, Alaska and British Columbia. He is a Board-certified neuropsychologist (American Board of Professional Neuropsychology) and a Fellow of the National Academy of Neuropsychology. He was a clinical assistant professor at the University of Washington and Pepperdine University. He has published articles and book chapters and has presented in the U.S., Canada, Kuwait and Norway.

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This seminar has been reviewed and approved by Keith Hannan, Ph.D., Laura Davie, LICSW, Tina Jenkins, Psy.D., and Loreen Yearick, MSN, RN. This approval expires on March 1, 2028.

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