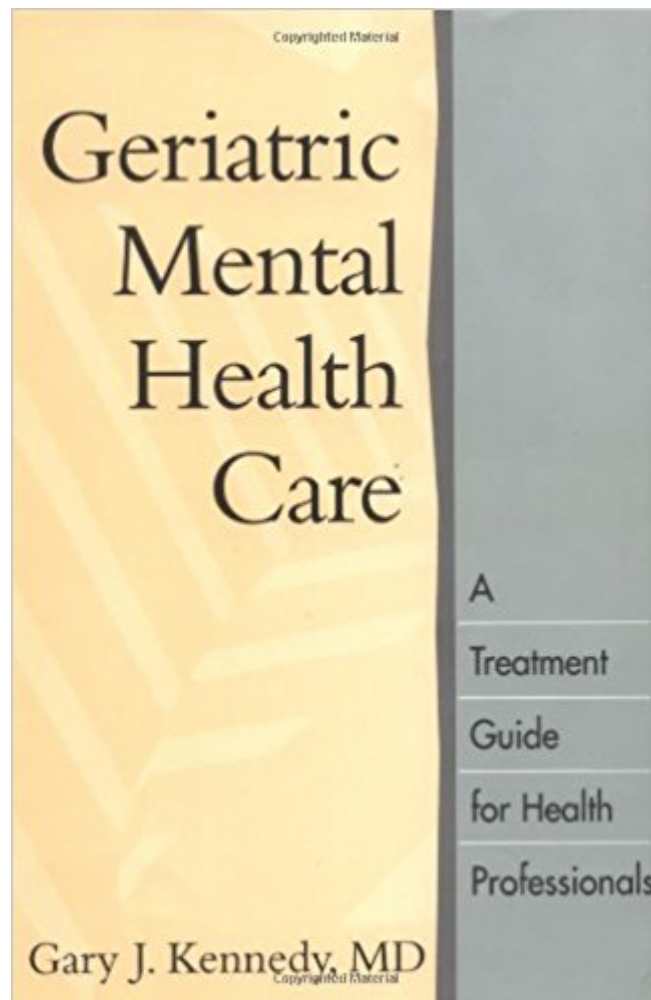




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# **Geriatric Mental Health Care: A Treatment Guide For Health Professionals**



## Synopsis

This essential guide is designed for mental health practitioners and primary care providers without advanced training in geriatric psychiatry. Gary J. Kennedy sets forth a clear framework for understanding the interplay of medical, psychological, and social factors in frequently encountered problems among older adults. Clear guidelines are delineated for assessing and treating such conditions as depression and anxiety, dementia, psychosis and mania, sleep disturbances, personality and somatoform disorders, substance abuse, and suicidality. Throughout, the book focuses on ways to sustain seniors' independence and overall quality of life while enhancing their adaptive capacities. Winner--American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Award (2000) See also the author's Geriatric Depression: A Clinical Guide, which distills the best available interventions for depression in older adults in a highly accessible format.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In a clearly written, practical guidebook for practitioners, Dr. Kennedy combines a wealth of published information with his own considerable clinical experience in treating older individuals....I strongly recommend this volume for the practicing psychiatrist who is working with older patients; the information presented will be most helpful."--The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry"...this is a useful reference for the student and generalist concerned with the life problems and mental health of elders. For a single author to be able to encompass this body of knowledge is remarkable, and Kennedy does it well."--American Journal of Psychotherapy"...a timely, thorough and well-written

guide for primary care and mental health professionals who do any work with older adults. It can also be used by students and trainees across disciplines as a reference text for mental health issues, including evaluation and treatment of disorders, among persons. The breadth of topics covered in this book makes it a unique contribution to the field. Throughout the text, close attention is paid to the delicate interaction between biological, psychological, and social variables that may contribute to morbidity in elderly persons....It is noteworthy that Dr. Kennedy gives special consideration to the complexities of providing consultation in nursing homes, on home visits, and to other health care agencies. Specific guidance on navigating this uncharted territory is both practical and valuable....Geriatric Mental Health Care is a timely endeavor written by one of the leading educators in geriatric psychiatry to guide and instruct health care professionals at every level in working with the elderly....The book is highly recommended to any clinician or caretaker seeking comprehensive and easily accessible information about geriatric mental health care."--Psychiatric Services

Gary Kennedy, one of our leading geriatric psychiatrists, brings his thoughtful scholarship and breadth of clinical experience to this endeavor. At once focused and comprehensive, chapters provide concise overviews of the main areas of geriatric psychiatry--such as late-life depression--as well as useful reference material. Perhaps the greatest strengths of the book, however, lie in its coverage of lesser-understood topics such as elder abuse/neglect and personality disorders. This volume will be a welcome addition to the bookshelf of all generalist physicians and mental health professionals working with older adults."--Dan Blazer, MD, PhD, J.P. Gibbons Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University Medical Center

On any given day, people over 65 constitute the majority of patients seen by a range of practitioners. In addition to diseases and functional disorders, a substantial portion of these patients have cognitive disorders and psychopathology. Yet few nongeriatric clinicians are prepared to recognize, assess, and treat these conditions. This valuable text will improve the clinical care and support that generalist practitioners can offer to older people and their caregivers"--Mathay Mezey, EdD, RN, FAAN, Independence Foundation Professor of Nursing Education and Director, The Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, New York University Division of Nursing

This book is clearly written and concise yet addresses a wide range of practical issues that the primary care provider is likely to encounter when caring for older adults. It is evidence based and well referenced. The tables target the major differences among psychotherapeutic agents that would allow one to individualize therapy based on underlying conditions and comorbidities. I highly recommend this book to all providers of health care to older adults."--Rosanne M. Leipzig, MD, PhD, Department of Geriatrics and Adult Development, Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, NY

This is an extremely readable overview

whose scope goes beyond psychopathology in its usual sense. Every chapter also discusses the familial and social contexts of mental distress, making the book relevant for many types of professionals, including nonpsychiatric physicians, psychologists, nurses, social workers, administrators, and others who work with older people. Kennedy pays full attention to scientific evidence and the complexity of the issues while keeping the book focused and succinct. The case examples are very useful for everyday practice, as are tables providing quick reviews of topics as diverse as pharmacologic treatments for depression, decision-making competence, and types of sleep disorders."--M. Powell Lawton, PhD, Philadelphia Geriatric Center, Philadelphia, PA"A useful reference for the student and generalist concerned with the life problems and mental health of elders. For a single author to be able to encompass this body of knowledge is remarkable, and Kennedy does it well." (American Journal of Psychotherapy 2001-11-04)"It is noteworthy that Dr. Kennedy gives special consideration to the complexities of providing consultation in nursing homes, on home visits, and to other health care agencies. Specific guidance on navigating this uncharted territory is both practical and valuable....Geriatric Mental Health Care is a timely endeavor written by one of the leading educators in geriatric psychiatry to guide and instruct health care professionals at every level in working with the elderly." (Psychiatric Services 2001-11-04)

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Very well written and practical. Highly recommend it. I read it cover to cover and go back to refer to on relevant topics. I am a family nurse practitioner with years of psychiatric experience but learned some new approaches and considerations from this book, including medications. Should be on everyone's bookshelf. Works well on the Kindle edition too.

I purchased this book as a primer in geriatric mental health care and it was the perfect choice for my

needs. The author is very thorough in examining the myriad of disorders and psychosocial struggles for senior adults while presenting the information in a readable format. As a social worker preparing to add geriatric mental health to my professional practice, I believe this book provides me with the knowledge I need to best care for my clients.

Good stuff for those who work with the elderly

This book does not provide good guide as to what types of therapies and approaches are better to use with the geriatric population.

Bought it for a course that was cancelled. Tried it but didn't find it rewarded the effort.

I recently started working as an LPN in long term care and I have found this to be most valuable in providing me with a basis for understanding the many types of dementia and mental illness with which my residents are struggling. I highly recommend this work to anyone working or living with an elderly person.

I haven't read all of it, because it covers a lot of different dementias and I didn't need to. It has helped a great deal in understanding and most importantly coping with the symptoms of my mom's Alzheimers. I refer to it often and am grateful to have it as a resource.

I found this book to be helpful overall, however, it was missing any discussion of what I have found to be a key mental health issue with elders and that is hoarding. There was a not a single mention of hoarding and from my experience in the field, hoarding is a serious problem with the elder population.

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