

From the Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines

Dear Colleague,

It gives us great pleasure in presenting the IPS Clinical Practice Guidelines in your hands. It has been a long felt need of the membership of IPS to have these Guidelines. It has taken us two years to prepare, organise and finally hand it over to you.

Preparation of Clinical Practice Guidelines in health sciences is a dynamic process. They have to be revised periodically in view of the expanding knowledge and latest research in the area of management of a given malady. The initial draft of documents prepared by respective centers were circulated among the small groups and comments were invited. Subsequently more than 50 experts from all parts of the country participated in the National workshop on Clinical Practice Guidelines for psychiatrists in India at Jaipur on July 23 & 24, 2004 and had two days marathon brainstorming sessions initially in small groups on respective disorders and then the large group discussed all the Guidelines prepared jointly to arrive at the draft proposals which were circulated to all fellows and members for suggestions regarding revision if any. Suggestions received after circulation of draft proposal were reviewed and incorporated to arrive at the final Guidelines which are in your hands.

We are grateful to all the fellows and members who have taken pains to write the initial documents, participated in the workshop, subsequently gave their suggestions and have contributed to development of these practice guidelines. Special thanks go to editor Indian Journal of Psychiatry for circulating the draft of these guidelines in a short period to all the members to seek their comments.

This volume of practice guidelines comprises of guidelines in management of Schizophrenia, Depression, Affective Disorders, OCD and GAD & Panic Disorders which will work as handy reference to all clinicians while working with their patients. It may be reiterated that these guidelines can't be quoted as mandatory dictates to be followed especially in countries like India where socio-economic and clinical factors may lead to recourses other than what has been stipulated in this document.

We are grateful to the president, secretary and the council of Indian Psychiatric Society for giving us the responsibility of preparing and printing this document. We hope it will meet the expectations of the membership and serve the purpose.

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