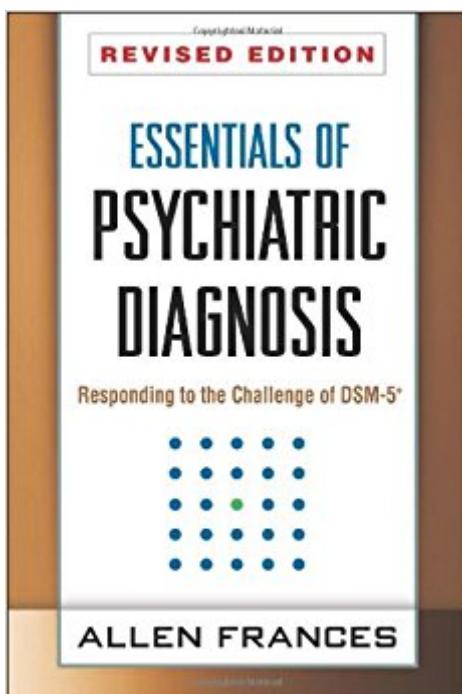


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# Essentials Of Psychiatric Diagnosis, Revised Edition: Responding To The Challenge Of DSM-5™,®



## Synopsis

This trusted practitioner resource and widely adopted text helps the busy clinician find the right psychiatric diagnosis and avoid the many pitfalls that lead to errors. Covering every disorder routinely encountered in clinical practice, Allen Frances provides the ICD-9-CM codes and (where feasible) ICD-10-CM codes required for billing, a useful screening question, a descriptive prototype, diagnostic tips, and other disorders that must be ruled out. Frances was instrumental in the development of past editions of DSM and provides helpful cautions on questionable aspects of DSM-5. An index of common presenting symptoms lists possible diagnoses that must be considered for each. The Appendix (which can also be accessed at the companion website) features a Crosswalk to ICD-10-CM codes plus links to coding resources.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Essentials of Psychiatric Diagnosis is simply the best book I've read about how to accurately diagnose your patients. Frances's combination of vast experience, down-in-the-trenches common sense, and informed skepticism is unique. Whether you're a psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, nurse, crisis counselor, or any other mental health professional, you should buy this book, read it cover to cover initially, and then keep it in your office to refer back to frequently. I'm glad this book had not been published before I wrote my book on the psychiatric interview, because the competition would have made me choose a different topic!"--Daniel J. Carlat, MD, Department of Psychiatry, Tufts University School of Medicine;

Founding Editor, *The Carlat Psychiatry Report* "With his clinical expertise, leadership roles in prior DSM editions, and healthy skepticism about overdiagnosis and excessive medication, Frances has crafted a clinical gem. This clear and concise book describes a sequential assessment process and provides screening questions, easily remembered prototypic descriptions, differential diagnostic considerations, and cautionary notes about diagnostic traps. Frances recognizes the need for a diagnosis to guide intervention, while steering clear of diagnostic reification. All clinicians need this book for frequent reference, and it should be a required text in mental health training

programs."--John F. Clarkin, PhD, Personality Disorders Institute, New York Presbyterian Hospital;

Department of Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medical College "This easy-to-read, commonsensical handbook guides mental health clinicians through the thicket of differential diagnosis in psychiatry.

Frances--a thoughtful and effective critic of the excesses of DSM-5--shows where diagnosis is valid and essential, and where a premature diagnosis or a diagnostic fad has the potential to hurt patients. Everyone who uses diagnosis in daily practice will benefit from the down-to-earth wisdom of this book."--Joel Paris, MD, Department of Psychiatry, McGill University, Canada "A 'must have' for mental health professionals. Frances provides useful, easy-to-understand information about psychiatric diagnosis and coding for clinicians in all mental health disciplines."--K. Dayle

Jones, PhD, LMHC, Mental Health Counseling Program, University of Central Florida "Frances demonstrates an unusual ability to communicate the tacit knowledge of an expert into understandable concepts and ideas that will be appreciated by clinicians and students alike.

Elegantly simple screening questions precede each disorder and cut through the diagnostic murk.

Facilitating patient-centered care, teamwork, and collaboration, this is a comprehensive diagnostic resource for the whole treatment team."--Margaret (Peggy) Halter, PhD, APRN, Editor, *Foundations of Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing*; Associate Dean, Dwight Schar College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Ashland University "This volume should head the list of user-friendly guides to psychiatric diagnosis. Frances draws on his considerable experience and contributions, such as heading the

DSM-IV Task Force, to produce a work that will be indispensable for primary care clinicians and all professionals and students in mental health care. The guide contains screening questions, prototypic case descriptions, ICD-9-CM codes (and ICD-10-CM codes where feasible), and specific cautionary statements to reduce diagnostic inflation and raise concerns about aspects of DSM-5.

The material is handled with sensitivity and compassion, with the patient's best interests always the central consideration. This book is a welcome arrival at a time when recent trends in diagnosis are increasingly attracting controversy. I will be using this excellent guide in my own work and will recommend it to my students and colleagues."--Adrian Wells, PhD, Division of Clinical Psychology,

University of Manchester, United Kingdom "Anyone who brings a critical perspective to psychiatric diagnosis will welcome this book's truly refreshing, reader-friendly approach. Frances, a well-known, respected psychiatrist, offers up what is clearly a lifetime synthesis of wisdom and knowledge on diagnosis. Rejecting the cumbersome detailing of esoteric diagnostic criteria found elsewhere, Frances presents a simpler, consumable structure for readers. Importantly, he includes specific DSM-5-related cautions and caveats. Social workers will appreciate that Frances begins discussion of the diagnostic interview with a section called 'The Relationship Comes First'--and that he argues the client should actually be part of the diagnostic team. This is good stuff."--Kia J. Bentley, PhD, LCSW, School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University "This uncluttered, visually appealing guide will assist all primary care physicians in the care of patients with psychiatric illnesses."--Elizabeth S. White, MD, internist, Settlement Health, New York City "I selected this book as a required text in my master's-level course on the DSM. This is the best companion to the DSM that I have found since I began teaching this course. Many of my students have limited experience with psychiatric assessment and diagnosis, and find the DSM overwhelming and off-putting. Frances provides the perfect counterbalance to DSM-5 orthodoxy. His book is filled with clinical practice wisdom that will benefit students in their day-to-day work with clients. I expect that this will be one of the books that students keep on their shelves well after graduation as they work in the field. Social workers are the largest provider group of mental health care; this user-friendly resource will help them develop the skills they need to accurately assess and diagnose."--Mark J. Brenner, PhD, ACSW, LICSW, Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator, School of Social Work, Bridgewater State University "The book is well organized. [It] is useful to school social workers. Although the new DSM-5 uses ICD10 codes, with the help of Frances's book, a school social worker will be able to recognize codes that may be included on a psychiatrist's report." (School Social Work Journal 2015-04-01) "[This work] represents the kind of valuable clinical wisdom that one accumulates after years of diagnostic experience....Clinical pearls focus in particular on the fuzzy boundaries and grey areas between threshold diagnoses and non-diagnostic problems of living, as well as Dr. Frances's concerns about diagnostic inflation in psychiatry." (Psychiatric Times 2013-08-15) "This book does not follow the organizational structure found in the DSM-5. Instead, it presents disorders roughly in the order of their frequency of being encountered in clinical practice, which does, in my opinion, make the book more interesting and useful. I can see using this book as a useful secondary text in teaching master of social work (MSW) students about using the DSM. Supplementing with Frances's *Essentials of Psychiatric*

Diagnosis will greatly help in developing a clinical social worker's diagnostic skills. We need to learn the DSM-5 and learn to use it well. Allen Frances' *Essentials of Psychiatric Diagnosis* can be a very useful tool to help us achieve this goal of professional social work education. (Research on Social Work Practice 2013-12-19) "This is a very worthwhile book that highlights concerns about DSM-5 that many will share." (Journal of Clinical Psychiatry 2014-06-01) "The book is for anyone interested in psychiatric diagnosis, and the author specifically mentions that the book will assist busy primary care doctors to be directed toward an accurate diagnosis. As a director of behavioral medicine for a family medicine residency, I see value in the book for physicians as the author mentions as well that it is a quick reference." I would especially recommend this work to other behavioral scientists working in family medicine. It provides some key teaching points for students and residents. Dr. Frances is not one for superficial rambling, and he gets to the points that need to be made in this book. The wisdom that is derived by the experience of a master clinician in psychiatry comes through its pages. (Society of Teachers of Family Medicine 2015-04-06)

Allen Frances, MD, is a clinician, educator, researcher, and leading authority on psychiatric diagnosis. He chaired the DSM-IV Task Force, was a member of the Task Force that prepared DSM-III-R, and wrote the final version of the Personality Disorders section in DSM-III. The author of several hundred papers and more than a dozen books, most recently *Saving Normal: An Insider's Revolt against Out-of-Control Psychiatric Diagnosis, DSM-5, Big Pharma, and the Medicinalization of Ordinary Life*, Dr. Frances is Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University.

An excellent antidote to over diagnosis. Please be advised this is a professional book. Members of the public looking for answers to distressing experiences will not find solutions. It is aimed at clinicians mostly, and perhaps public policy makers. I've been a Clinical Psychologist for nearly 24 years, and have observed that everything has become a disease, which in turn has a drug specific treatment. Medication is helpful some of the time, as does reassurance that a situation is a reasonable response to life stressors. Dr. Frances makes this point well. To my fellow clinicians bewildered by DSM 5, I recommend you read this book, and place it on the shelf next to DSM 4 or 5, and your ICD 10 code book.

With all the hoopla and worries about DSM 5, it's no wonder a book like this was made. It makes understanding all the changes in DSM 5 easier. This is a must have for any clinician, whether they are new to the field or a professional. A must have. I think in time the price of this will go up because of its wide use.

I couldn't recommend this more highly to graduate students or new providers. As a new psych nurse practitioner it has helped me tremendously with differential diagnosis. The case studies are typical of and relevant to the real world. I appreciate Dr. Allen's cautions of adding a psychiatric disorder "label" to a person as it many times sticks with the patient, affecting the overall course of their lives. Easy to read and digest. Grateful for this useful and wise addition to psych dx lit. Not a guide to treatment. More a diagnostic tool for your arsenal.

The DSM 5 has generated lots of emotion, fears and frustration. ALLEN FRANCES, MD., has booted the Boogey-Man out! The DSM 5 is made easy with this handbook. I have been to DSM 5 workshops and this book leaves those in the dust. You will not be disappointed.

The book is full with author's experience and personal opinions. The anti DSM5 flavor of the book is very clear and pronounced in many areas, up to stating some points not present in published DSM5. The author may pose his opinions as a substitute to DSM5 in some areas. But generally it is a very deep critique to DSM5 from an expert, but from a personal point of view, without good evidence exploring.

This book is pretty good. It's quite slender, really a handbook for the clinician. It is very influenced by the author's biases, which he has made known in numerous newspaper articles and the like. I was hoping for more depth and exploration of the topics. The author does have significant clinical wisdom, and does a good job of steering the clinician through recent diagnostic changes and debates to a thoughtful diagnosis.

Great book and categorizes each diagnosis in a very specific and way that is easy to understand. I like the format and organization. I would recommend this for anyone that is learning diagnosis or just wants to go deeper.

Getting masters in mental health counseling and this is very helpful as a guide to mental disorders.

Easy to read and understand.

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