

Vol. 23, No. 8  
August 1999  
ISSN 0955-6036

# Psychiatric Bulletin

The Journal of Trends in Psychiatric Practice



Royal College  
of Psychiatrists

---

# Psychiatric Bulletin

## The Journal of Trends in Psychiatric Practice

---

Editor: Dr Tom Fahy

Editorial Board: Dr Derek Chiswick,  
Dr Louise Howard, Dr Peter Kennedy, Dr Rosalind Ramsay,  
Dr Henry Rollin, Dr Mike Shooter, Dr David Tait,  
Professor Peter Tyrer, Professor Greg Wilkinson

Bulletin Coordinator: Conceição Santos Sinclair  
Assistant Scientific Editor: Zoë Stagg

---

### Notice to contributors

The *Psychiatric Bulletin* publishes original scientific papers, brief review articles and opinion pieces dealing with treatment of mental disorders, administration, audit and management of psychiatric services and training in psychiatry. The *Psychiatric Bulletin* focuses on matters relevant to everyday clinical practice and management in psychiatry. The *Psychiatric Bulletin* will prioritise articles which are of practical clinical relevance, topical and accessible.

All original articles are peer reviewed. Authors should send three copies of their submission, typed double-spaced with wide margins, and give a total word count. A good length is 1500 words. Longer papers are likely to be returned to the authors for editing before being sent to referees. A structured abstract of 100–120 words (headings to include aims and method, results and clinical implications) should be included with all original scientific papers. A summary of approximately 100 words should precede review articles. Authors are encouraged to limit the number of tables/figures to a maximum of three. Photographs and illustrations are welcome. For more detailed advice on referencing (Harvard system), presentation of statistical information and the style of tables and figures, please refer to instructions to authors in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*.

Papers on audit must demonstrate a completed audit cycle. Correspondence is welcome; letters should be no longer than 250 words (please give word count) and include no more than three references, and no tables or diagrams. Letters can be e-mailed to [csantossinclair@rcpsych.ac.uk](mailto:csantossinclair@rcpsych.ac.uk). The correspondence editor will use a standard letter to inform authors if their letter is to be published or not. Books reviews should be no longer than 500 words.

If an individual patient is described, the patient should read the report before submission, and written consent must be obtained from the patient or an authorised person. Contributors should be aware of the risk of complaint by patients in respect of defamation and breach of confidentiality.

All material submitted should be accompanied by a covering letter to the editor signed by all authors. Contributions are accepted for publication on the condition that their substance has not been published or submitted elsewhere.

---

The *Psychiatric Bulletin* is published monthly by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG. (Registered charity no. 228636.)

#### Subscriptions

Non-members of the College should contact the Publications Subscriptions Department, Royal Society of Medicine Press Limited, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE (tel. 0171 290 2928).

Subscription rate for 1999: £55 (UK and elsewhere), \$81 (USA).

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences – Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials. ANSI Z39. 48-1984.

Information about the College's publications is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk>.  
©1999 The Royal College of Psychiatrists. Unless so stated, material in the *Psychiatric Bulletin* does not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or the College. The publishers are not responsible for any error of omission or fact.

---

*Psychiatric Bulletin* is covered by the Excerpta Medica database EMBASE.

US Mailing Information: The *Psychiatric Bulletin* is published monthly by the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Subscription price is \$81. Second Class postage paid at Rahway, NJ. Postmaster send address corrections to *Psychiatric Bulletin*, c/o Mercury Airfreight International Ltd Inc., 365 Blair Road, Avenel, New Jersey 07001.

ISSN 0955-6036.

Typeset by Dobbie Typesetting Limited, Tavistock.  
Printed in Great Britain by Henry Ling Ltd, at the Dorset Press, Dorchester, Dorset.