Books

Emergency Psychiatry and Mental Health Policy: An International Point of View*

South Africa has become a country captivated with changing old systems for new, and psychiatric services have not escaped attempts at rejuvenation. Not every change is necessarily an improvement. Improving health services requires innovative ideas but innovation requires sound knowledge.

Emergency Psychiatry and Mental Health Policy is a new book that provides information on the delivery of acute psychiatric care in different parts of the world. The book is divided into introductory chapters that detail aspects of emergency psychiatric care such as clinical implications, care in large cities, the rights of the patients and deinstitutionalisation. Further chapters examine care on different continents. Emergency psychiatric services in the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, Spain, Greece and South Africa are discussed. The contribution from South Africa by Professor C Gagiano is outstanding, and comprises a succinct summary of the Free State model for community and emergency psychiatry.

This book is primarily aimed at policy makers. Officials and clinicians who are involved in mental health policy will find in this book a convenient collection of reports detailing the organisation of emergency psychiatry care in different parts of the world.

Frans J Hugo

Products

Rohypnol New 1 mg Formulation
Roche Products has announced that Rohypnol (flunitrazepam) is now available in a 1 mg formulation. The tablet is a greyish-green to dull green biconvex tablet, with the upper surface scored and the lower imprinted ‘542’. The product is packed in transparent polyvinyl chloride blister packs containing 30 tablets.

The change is to coincide with the recommendations from the CPMP, who commissioned an investigation into the relative benefits/risks ratio of all short-acting hypnotics, as well as the minimisation of the risks associated with hypnotic tablets through appropriate measures and information.

For more information: Hugo van Zyl, Product Manager, tel (011) 928-8900 or the Roche Ethicals Assistant Line (REAL) toll free on 0800 212 125.

Cipramil – New Panic Disorder Indication
Lundbeck South Africa has announced the registration of Cipramil for panic disorder, in addition to its current indication for the treatment of depression.

Trials with Cipramil have revealed the advantage of independent improvement of other components of the anxiety syndrome, e.g. anticipatory anxiety, agoraphobia and phobic avoidance, within 1 week, sustainable for at least 15 months. Cipramil is effective without the anticholinergic or cardiovascular side-effects and it does not carry the risk of dependency.

For more information: Elaine Milne, tel. (011) 886-7810, e-mail: eej@lundbeck.com.

Handbook of Child Psychiatry for Primary Care*
By Brian Robertson, 368pp, pvc/flexicover, R150
This handbook provides straightforward information on the diagnosis, aetiology, and treatment of all major psychiatric disorders that affect children and adolescents.

* These books are available directly from SAMA Health and Medical Publishing Group Book Department, Private Bag X1, Pinelands, 7430, tel. (021) 331-3081, fax (021) 331-4126, e-mail publishing@samedical.org or jstrydom@samedical.org
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June 1999, Vol. 5, No. 2 SAJP