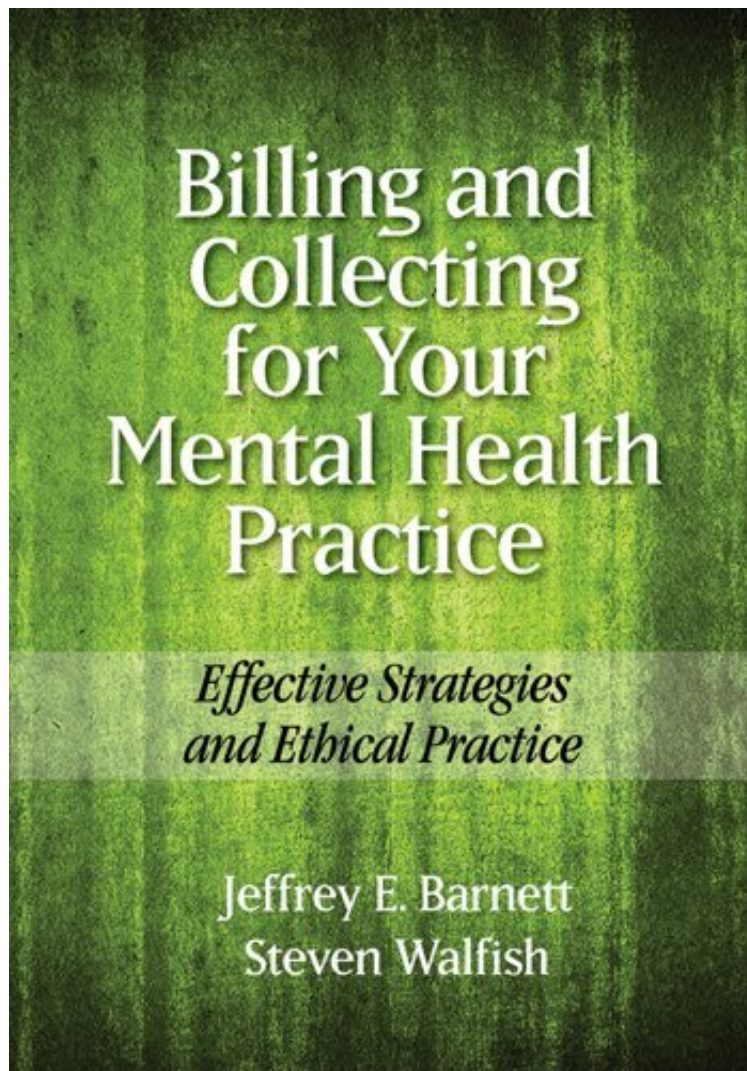


Billing and Collecting for Your Mental Health Practice: Effective Strategies and Ethical Practice

*Professor of Psychology and Associate Dean Jeffrey E Barnett PsyD Abpp
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#1093728 in Books Amer Psychological Assn 2011-08-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.90 x .40 x 6.801, .60 #File Name: 1433810174130 pages | File size: 66.Mb

Professor of Psychology and Associate Dean Jeffrey E Barnett PsyD Abpp : Billing and Collecting for Your Mental Health Practice: Effective Strategies and Ethical Practice before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Billing and Collecting for Your Mental Health Practice: Effective Strategies and Ethical Practice:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Very little useful informationBy SFNeuropsychI am a

neuropsychologist in private practice and I have been doing my billing for several years. The premise of this book is that there is no good book available for mental health practitioners to learn to do their own billing and this isn't taught in school. Unfortunately, even after the publication of this book, there is still no good book on how to do your own billing. This book is essentially a very very rudimentary overview of the billing process with little or no actual information about HOW TO DO IT. The subtitle is "Effective Strategies..." but I found few if any strategies to help me work effectively with insurance companies. The information and the advice presented in this book are too superficial to be of much use to anyone but a novice biller (i.e. you have never done it before AT ALL). It is very difficult to learn how to work successfully with insurance companies and the authors of this book would have done potential readers a great service by going into detail about how to actually do this. There is a CMS 1500 form (used for billing all insurance companies), but there are no instructions about how to fill it out. For instance, for reasons no sane person could ever understand, Medicare requires you to put NONE in Box 11, but private insurance companies do not want this. I learned this information the hard way, but now that I know it, I share it with my students and postdocs because it's helpful to them. There are no details like this in the book and it is these kind of details that are going to help you get paid (without losing your sanity) if you do your own billing. For those of you with private practices, you know the process of billing can be brutal. The insurance companies do not make record profits year after year by paying the clinicians who service their members -- they make money by NOT paying you. There are no actual guidelines for how to deal with the insurance companies except in the most superficial terms. I cannot recommend it except to the very green beginners. If you know ABSOLUTELY NOTHING about billing and you've never done it before, this book might be somewhat helpful to you. I'm sure the authors had good intentions when they set out to write this book, but they were not successful in their endeavor. In my opinion, there is a lot of filler and very little substance. I was very disappointed with this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Thank you!

By My books I spent years studying and working as an unpaid intern and earning supervision hours to take the licensure exam. Then, I wanted to work kindly and gently with my clients helping them achieve a better fit into their changing lives. I love being a gerontological social worker in private and independent practice. Then, I ran into a wall of the unknown: Billing, Coding, and Claims! I was drowning; work was good, pay was difficult to figure out. I figured out why mental health practitioners work for agencies! - So they didn't have to do bookwork! This book is saving me. I can now make sense when I communicate with the online server billing service. Secondary claims are still challenging, but life is better.

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. billing and collecting for psychology is tough!

By Marylou Unfortunately, I did not find this book to be very helpful. I was sincerely hoping that it would offer more of the practical tips on how to code and bill when working with third party payors in mental health practices. The information in the book is surface level information for a complete novice. When i read this book, i had been in private practice for a few months and this book was still beneath my level. I have now been in private practice for a year and I am still nowhere near figuring out how to use CPT codes correctly, which codes to use for reimbursement, how to fill out some of the lengthy forms third party payors present practitioners with and how to negotiate contracts. It seems that what mental health practitioners need is a manual on how to correctly 'line up' procedures and services with the correct CPT codes, and diagnosis codes, and how to obtain adequate and prompt reimbursements. This book does not delve deeply enough into these issues.

While mental health professionals receive extensive clinical training, they typically receive minimal, if any, training in the business aspects of private practice. As a result, billing and collecting can be overwhelming. The process is further complicated because our attempts to maximize profits must occur in the context of a therapeutic relationship. Ethically balancing the business and clinical aspects of practice is an essential matter for all clinicians. This book presents specific, practical guidance on the technical aspects of billing and related ethical and legal considerations. Topics include * protecting client rights in the billing and collection processes * setting and raising fees * providing informed consent about billing and fees * establishing and enforcing a written financial agreement with clients * dealing with insurance companies and other third parties * what to do when clients fail to pay agreed-upon fees * the pros and cons of using a billing service * billing issues specific to forensic mental health services * and more With its abundance of practical tips and case examples, this book is a must-read for all clinicians who are or wish to be in private practice.

About the Author Jeffrey E. Barnett, PsyD, ABPP, is a professor in the Department of Psychology at Loyola University Maryland and a licensed psychologist who has been in practice for over 25 years. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) in both clinical psychology and clinical child and adolescent psychology. He also is a distinguished practitioner of psychology in the National Academies of Practice. He is a past chair of the American Psychological Association (APA) Ethics Committee and currently serves on the ABPP Ethics Committee and the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists. Dr. Barnett has also served in numerous leadership positions within the profession of psychology, including president of the Maryland Psychological Association and president of three divisions of the APA (Psychotherapy; Independent Practice; and State, Provincial, and Territorial Psychological Association Affairs). In 2009, he received the APA Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to the

Independent Practice of Psychology, and in 2010, he received the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychotherapy and Psychology from the APA Division of Psychotherapy. Dr. Barnett is a frequent author and presenter on ethics, legal, and professional practice issues, including the business of practice. His recent books include *Financial Success in Mental Health Practice: Essential Tools and Strategies for Practitioners*, *Ethics Desk Reference for Psychologists*, and *Ethics Desk Reference for Counselors*. He is an associate editor of the APA journal *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, as well as the editor of its "Focus on Ethics" feature. Steven Walfish, PhD, is a licensed psychologist and has been in independent practice in Atlanta since 2002. He received his PhD in clinical-community psychology from the University of South Florida in 1981. He has previously been in independent practice in Tampa, Florida, and in Edmonds and Everett, Washington. He is the editor of *Independent Practitioner* and has served on the editorial boards of several journals. He has published in the areas of substance abuse, weight loss surgery, and professional training and practice. He is currently a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Emory University School of Medicine, where he supervises postdoctoral fellows. Dr. Walfish has received the Award for Outstanding Research in Consulting Psychology from the American Psychological Association (APA) Division of Consulting Psychology, the Walter Barton Award for Outstanding Research in Mental Health Administration from the American College of Mental Health Administration, and the Award for Mentoring from the APA Division of Independent Practice. In 2010, he was elected a fellow of the APA. His other published books include *Succeeding in Graduate School: The Career Guide for Psychology Students*, *Financial Success in Mental Health Practice: Essential Tools and Strategies for Practitioners*, and *Earning a Living Outside of Managed Mental Health Care: 50 Ways to Expand Your Practice*.