

## [NEW NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR SENIORS MENTAL HEALTH ARE COMPLETE!](#)

In January 2005, the CCSMH was awarded funding by the Public Health Agency of Canada, Population Health Fund, to lead and facilitate the development of evidence-based recommendations for best practice National Guidelines in four key areas of seniors' mental health. These include:

- The Assessment and Treatment of **Delirium**;
- The Assessment and Treatment of **Depression**;
- The Assessment of **Suicide Risk and Prevention of Suicide**; and
- The Assessment and Treatment of **Mental Health Issues in Long Term Care Homes** (Focus on Mood & Behaviour Symptoms).

Dr. David Conn, Dr. Ken Le Clair (CCSMH Co-chairs) and I are pleased to announce that the four NEW National Guidelines for Seniors' Mental Health are complete.

**The 4 documents may be DOWNLOADED for FREE through the Canadian Coalition for Seniors Mental Health (CCSMH) Website ([www.ccsmh.ca](http://www.ccsmh.ca)) or directly through <http://www.ccsmh.ca/en/guidelinesUsers.cfm>**

A limited amount of hardcopies will be sent to Canadian hospitals, LTC homes and government over the next number of weeks.

Now that the guidelines are complete, it is imperative that the seniors' mental health community ensure that the documents do not get shelved. WE NEED YOUR HELP to do the following:

Raise Awareness of the Guidelines: Forward this information announcing the launch and link to the new guidelines to practitioners, administrators, policy makers, educational & professional bodies, consumers & caregivers.

Implement the Guidelines: Use them in your teaching, practice and advocacy. Approach the leaders of your organization to commit to the implementation and/or piloting of the guidelines

Provide the CCSMH with Feedback: Complete the online survey on the CCSMH website ([www.ccsmh.ca](http://www.ccsmh.ca)), email us at the CCSMH ([fmalach@baycrest.org](mailto:fmalach@baycrest.org) , [kiwilson@baycrest.org](mailto:kiwilson@baycrest.org)) or call us directly at 416 785-2500 ext 6331 to provide feedback and to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

Special thanks to the Guideline Co-leads and members of the Guideline Development Groups for their countless hours of dedication, knowledge and collaboration.

Thanks kindly,

Faith Malach; Dr. David Conn & Dr. Ken Le Clair

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