

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain: Core Strategies

Ann M. Steffen, PhD, ABPP



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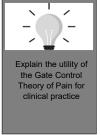
Conflict of Interest





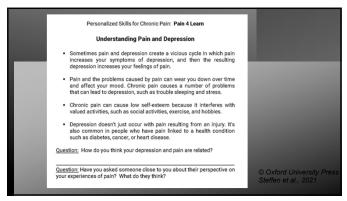
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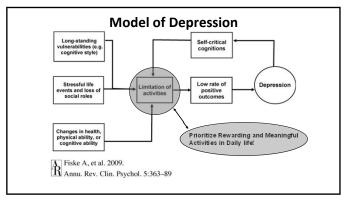
Learning Objectives











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Early Steps in CBT for Chronic Pain Management

- 1. Ask client to tell their story of conditions and surgeries that led to current pain experiences
 - a) Listen fully and carefully, summarize periodically

 - b) Write out timeline together to track complicated treatment history
 c) Your investment of a full session devoted to listening and validating will pay off

Early Steps in CBT for Chronic Pain Management

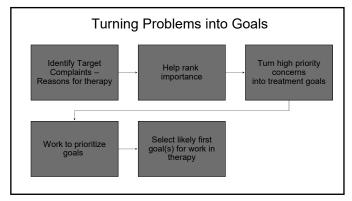
- 2. Ask client for full list of medications (Rx, OTC, CBD, etc)
 - a) Names, dosages, client's understanding of what they are used for
 - b) Client's view of when they work, when they don't work
 - c) What does client do when they don't work? (ask for more, take friends' meds, give up and spend day in bed, etc)

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Early Steps in CBT for Chronic Pain Management

- 3. Obtain signed release and communication with PCP/clinic/PT/OT, to:
 - a) Gain objective view of pain source(s) and how being medically managed
 - b) Understand messages that providers are emphasizing with client
 - c) Send periodic faxed treatment plan/summaries, first reviewed with client, that outlines collaborative therapy goals and strategies

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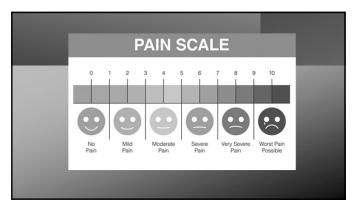


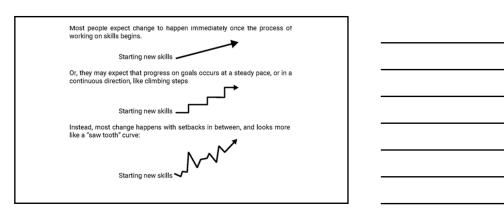
	Skills	for Getti	ng Started: St	art 7 Practice		
	Pro	oblems t	to Target in 1	Treatment		
Date(s):_						
			situation, wha hat I can focus		e the most? What ogram?	
Problem	Description:_					_
As I think	about this s	pecific as	pect of my life	, how much d	lo I feel: (circle)	
Sad	Not at all	A little	Moderately	Very Much	Extremely	
Worried	Not at all	A little	Moderately	Very Much	Extremely	
Frustrate	d Not at all	A little	Moderately	Very Much	Extremely	
Problem	Description:_					
As I think	about this s	pecific as	pect of my life	, how much d	lo I feel: (circle)	
Sad	Not at all	A little	Moderately	Very Much	Extremely	© Oxford University
Worried	Not at all	A little	Moderately	Very Much	Extremely	Press, Steffen et al.,
Frustrate	Not at all	A little	Moderately	Very Much	Extremely	2021

Skills for Getting Started: Start 8 Practice		
My Target Problems		
Date(s):		
As I pick the top 2 problems I need help with, I can try to be specific about which thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are hardest in my current situation.		
 I will fill out 2 of these forms, one for each problem I want to work on.		
Problem #1:		
In what situations does this happen?		
Why do I think this problem happens?		
Has this problem come up before? If so, what have I tried in the past to help manage this problem?		
Has anyone helped me with this problem in the past?		
Did these coping efforts help before, even a little?	© Oxford University Press Steffen et al., 2	

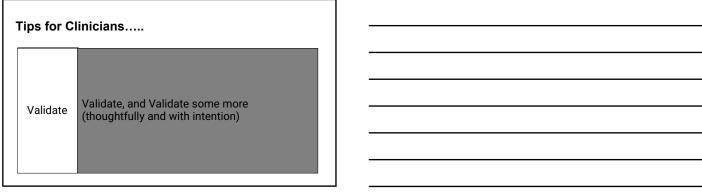
Skills for Getting Started: Start 9 Practice	
My Goals for this Program	
Date(s):	
I need a list of concrete goals for my work during this program. This will help keep me on track and motivated. To get started, I can list as few or as many goals as I want and then later select the most important ones.	
Use a general goal and then write a more specific version. Here are examples:	
General: Not be depressed any more Specific: Go to bed at night knowing that I've done at least one thing that day that gives my life meaning.	
General: Be closer to my family Specific: Spend time with a family member at least once a week (in person or by phone)	
General: To be healthier Specific: To walk at least 20 minutes, 5 times each week	
Some of my goals include:	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	© Oxford University Press
I will now circle 2 that are my top goals. These are the ones that are the most important for me to work towards in this program.	Steffen et al., 2021

Skills for Getting Started: Start 10 Practice
My SMART Therapy Goals Date(s):
It is important to make sure that my goals are <u>SMART</u> . With my clinicitan's help, I will fill out one of these forms for each of my main goals for this program (or by Capals total, one page for each post).
My Goal # The receiver this goal and believe that it is (check off each one that fits) Seconds: Messurable Agreeable*Positive Bestatic Bries for the fits of the fits
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Goal not Goal partially Goal fully met met
How could for extraction else know that this goal that been rest by the end of treatment? What behaviour or event would allow that it re-ended this goal? What evoid it be doing or not doing? I can write my answers below. If this program is as gazgess in repart to this goal, I will know because I will be doing (or not doing) these specific things.
If this program is <u>partially a success</u> in regard to this goal, I will know because I am doing (or not doing) these specific things:
If this goal is get_met_at at 1 will know because I will still be doing or not doing these things. © Oxford University Press Steffen et al., 2021



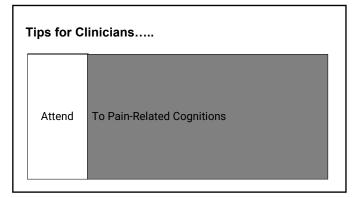


Tips for Clinicians	
Pay Attention to Sudden Changes in Pain Experiences	



Tips for Clinici	ans	
Emphasize Valu	es-Consistent Behaviors, Distraction	

Tips for Clinicians				
Support	The Hard Work of Physical Therapy			



Tips for Clinicians.... Pay Attention to Sudden Changes in Pain Experiences Validate Validate, and Validate some more Emphasize Values-Consistent Behaviors over Distraction Support The Hard Work of Physical Therapy Attend To Pain-Related Cognitions

Personalized Modules of Treating Later-Life Depression

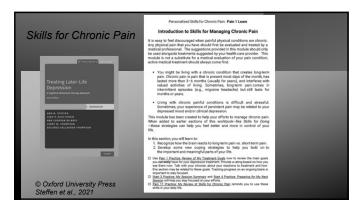
Core Sections (for many patients)
Skills for Getting Started (Therapy Orientation and Goal Setting)
Skills for Feeling (Emotional Literacy, Cultivating Positive Emotions)
Skills for Doing (Behavioral Activation and Problem-Solving)
Skills for Thinking (Self-Compassion and Cognitive Reappraisal)

Personalized Sections (for some patients)
Skills for Brain Health (Preventing and managing cognitive concerns)
Skills for Managing Chronic Pain (Psychoeducation and pain management)
Skills for Managing Chronic Pain (Psychoeducation and Stepe Hygiene)
Skills for Caregiving (For family and informal caregivers)
Skills for Caregiving (For family and informal caregivers)
Skills for Relating (Communication and interpersonal effectiveness skills)

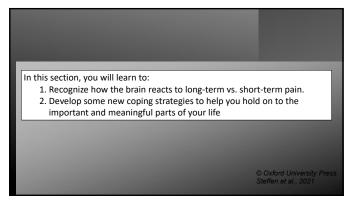
Core Section (for many patients)
Skills for Wrapping Up (Termination processes and plans)

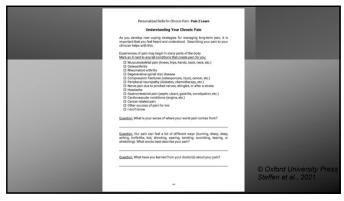


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Case Study: Maria

- 45 yrs old, 2nd generation Mexican American
 Head of household daughter (22 yrs) and

- Head of household daughter (22 yrs) and infant granddaughter live with her
 Office manager at architect's office
 Car accident involving lower back injury (herniated disc) 9 months ago
 After medical treatment and physical therapy, was discharged from PT and told she "made all the progress she was going to make"
 Current pain and discomfort Uncomfortable at work sitting (or standing still) for long periods
 Poor supplify does

- Poor quality sleep
- Standing while cooking, changing diapers at
- Doing less and less, depressed mood

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Turn to Person **Next to You:**

What might be some specific goals for Maria's work in CBT for Chronic Pain?



Discussion



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Early Strategies with Maria

- Psychoeducation about chronic pain
- Start with pacing on "good days" first
- Explore OT consult for improving fit with physical environment
- Spend time exploring personal values and strengths
- Slowly build in value-based positive daily activities



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Personalized Skills for Chronic Pain: Pain 3 Learn

Short-term vs. Long-term Pain

What do we mean by short-term pain? Why does it help to understand the differences between short-term and long-term pain?

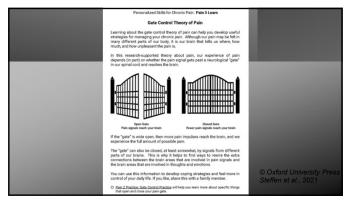
Short-term (Acute) pain is an expected response to something that has happened to the body. Pain is triggered by some injury, trauma, or disease. This pain goes away when the body heals. When you have acute pain, you typically get medical help, your body heals over time, and pain goes away.

<u>Long-term (Chronic) pain</u> is when we continue to have pain because of a chronic health condition, after the healing of an injury, or after the usual course of an acute disease. Sometimes, the cause is not exactly clear.

The way we feel pain involves complicated pathways among nerve fibers in our nervous system (brain and spinal cord). Chronic pain is very different from acute pain. It can vary over time but lasts months or years.

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Acute pain and chronic pain are experienced differently because your brain handles them differently.	
Our brains are always developing new connections based on our experiences. Sometimes this rewiring and neuroplasticity is good, as when we develop new skills. In chronic pain, this rewiring links brain areas involved in pain signals to other brain areas not typically involved in pain signals (like the part of our brain that is involved in emotions).	
This results in our becoming more sensitive to pain. Over time, our emotions and thoughts can be more and more linked to our experience of pain, which can make the pain even worse.	
Question: How does this information relate to your chronic pain?	
	C. Oufrad Hairmait. Burn
	© Oxford University Press Steffen et al., 2021



	Personalized Skills for Chronic Pain: Pain 2 Practice
	Gate Control Practice
	Date(s):
	I will list below some of the situations and habits this week that opened and closed my "gate" to pain (even a little bit).
_	Situations and Habits That Opened My Gate to Pain
	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	Situations and Habits That Helped Close My Gate to Pain (even a little)
	1
	2
	© Oxford University Press
	4 Steffen et al., 2021
	5

Early Strategies with Maria

- Psychoeducation about chronic pain
- Start with pacing on "good days" first
- Explore OT consult for improving fit with physical environment
- Spend time exploring personal values and strengths
- Slowly build in value-based positive daily activities



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	Personalized Skills for Chronic Pain: Pain 6 Learn	
	Opening and Closing Your Pain Gate: Physical/Behavioral Factors	
	It can be helpful to learn what opens and helps to (at least somewhat) close your pain gate. This happens through signals traveling up and down your spinal cord and that are then interpreted by your brain.	
	Physical Experiences/Behaviors That Open Your Pain Gate:	
	☐ Overactivity/Inactivity (overdoing it when you feel well, then doing little) ☐ New Injury ☐ Poor select ☐ Long-term angootic use ☐ Long-term Within here:	
	Physical (Behavioral Statecies That Help Close Your Pain Gate. Proicing your schivities (evoid underdoing and overdoing) Bedavation Gentle movement light stretching slow walking, moderate activity Warmin (2006) Short-term use of pain medications Insporing music strength and files bility Insporing music strength and files bility In or you're With the her.	
_	Start 5 Practice: My Values and Strengths reminds you of your values and personal strengths. Now is a good time to focus on daily activities that are rewarding and make life worth living. What daily activities help with this?	
	D <u>Pain 3 Practice: Gate Control Practice: Physical Activity</u> will help you try some new physical coping strategies for managing your pain. You may decide to continue using one of these forms over multiple weeks. Ask a family member or friend for support.	© Oxford University Press Steffen et al., 2021

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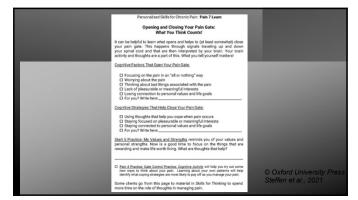
Personalized Skills for Chronic Pain: Pain 8 Learn Opening and Closing Your Pain Gate;	
Emotional Factors	
It can be helpful to learn what opens and helps to (at least somewhat) close your pain gate. This happens through signals travelling up and down your spinal cord and that are then interpreted by your brain. Some of these factors are emotion-focused. Let's explore these together:	
Emotional Factors That Open Your Pain Gate;	
Discret Assisty Fustration Output Ou	
Emotion-Focused Strategies: That Help Close Your Pain Gate: □ Using skills to manage negative emotions (smilety, frustration) □ Developing a sense of control over delly life □ Outsvarting areas of hope □ For your Write here: □	
Start 5 Practice: My Yalues and Strengths reminds you of your values and personal strengths. Now is a good time to focus on the things that are rewarding and make life worth living. What helps you do that?	
Pain 5 Practice: <u>Gate. Control Practice: Encotons</u> will help you try new emotion-focused coping strategies for managing your pain. Ask a family member or friend for support.	© Oxford University Pres
Learning about your own patterns will help identify what coping strategies are most likely to pay off as you manage your pain.	Steffen et al., 2021

Mid-treatment Strategies with Maria

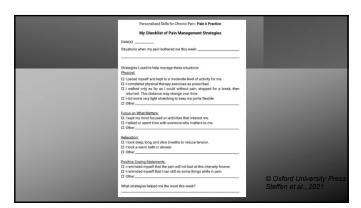
- Gently exploring thoughts about pain and pain management
- Spend time exploring personal values and strengths
- Slowly build in value-based positive daily activities

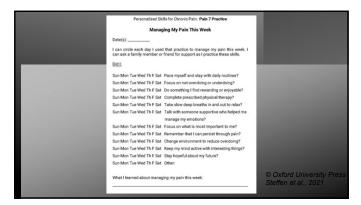


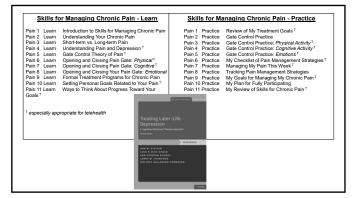
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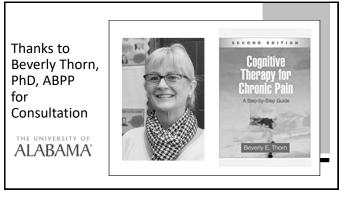
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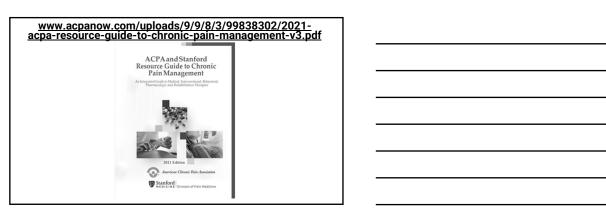












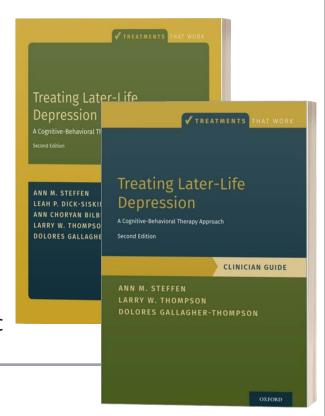
Questions?	

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- Revised treatment materials to be inclusive of adults in middle age
- Increased focus on cultivating positive emotion, values-based living, and self-compassion reflects the state of current clinical practice in CBT

Ann M. Steffen, PhD, ABPP is a board-certified geropsychologist and professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Leah P. Dick-Siskin, PhD has almost two decades of experience coordinating geriatric partial hospitalization programs and co-authored the book *Cognitive Behavior Therapy with Older People.* Ann Choryan Bilbrey, PhD completed her postdoctoral training at Stanford University's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and is the Associate Director of the Optimal Aging Center. Larry W. Thompson, PhD, ABPP is a board-certified geropsychologist and an emeritus professor from Stanford University School of Medicine. He is the co-founder of the Optimal Aging Center. Dolores Gallagher-Thompson, PhD, ABPP is a board-certified geropsychologist and active emerita professor at Stanford University School of Medicine. She is the co-founder of the Optimal Aging Center.

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