Special Issue on Treatment Adherence & Illness Self-Management

Guest editors: M. Bryant Howren, PhD, MPH; Jeffrey Gonzalez, PhD

A special issue of the Journal of Behavioral Medicine will be devoted to papers on research related to treatment adherence and illness self-management in the context of chronic illness. Despite significant advances in biomedical science related to the treatment of disease, the problems of nonadherence and suboptimal self-management remain pervasive and may be aptly described as a global public health concern. In addition to the enormous monetary cost, nonadherence and suboptimal self-management have been linked to patient and provider frustration, treatment failures, illness complications and relapse, mortality, and may compromise the establishment of empirically-based treatment guidelines. The special issue is intended to highlight the broad range of issues related to treatment adherence and illness self-management, which impact researchers and practitioners in the field of behavioral medicine. We are interested in including papers describing research on:

- Treatment adherence and chronic illness self-management (including health behavior change, self-monitoring, and care-seeking)
- Care coordination efforts to improve treatment adherence
- Methodological issues in measuring treatment adherence and self-management
- Moderators of treatment adherence (e.g., patient, provider, and/or sociocultural factors)
- New and emerging approaches to improving treatment adherence and self-management
- Sociocultural considerations regarding treatment adherence and self-management
- Treatment adherence and chronic illness self-management in special populations (e.g., ethnic minorities, children, the elderly, those with comorbid mental illness).
- Meta-analyses of relevant areas of the literature (predictors of adherence or outcomes of adherence).

We encourage you to submit original, empirical studies as well as literature reviews.

Abstract Submission deadline: September 15, 2015
Interested individuals should submit a brief abstract (350 words or less) and manuscript outline to matthew.howren@va.gov. Each abstract/outline will be reviewed and, if approved, invited as a submission for the special issue. Please note: an invitation does not guarantee eventual acceptance. All manuscripts will be subject to the normal peer review process.

If approved, manuscripts should follow the instructions for regular articles and should be submitted via the online submission system. The cover letter should specify that the authors wish their manuscript to be considered for the Special Issue on Treatment Adherence and Illness Self-Management. The issue is scheduled to appear in 2016.

Questions?
Questions regarding the special issue should be directed to:
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