

# PERSONALITY DISORDERS AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY: USE OF MEDICATION

**Reena Tharian**

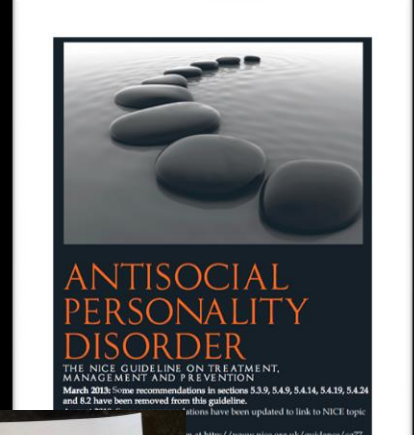
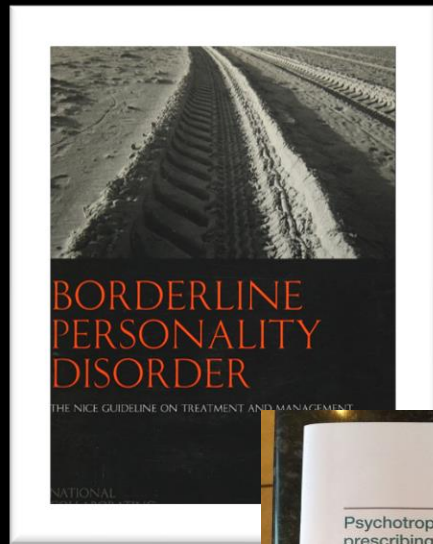
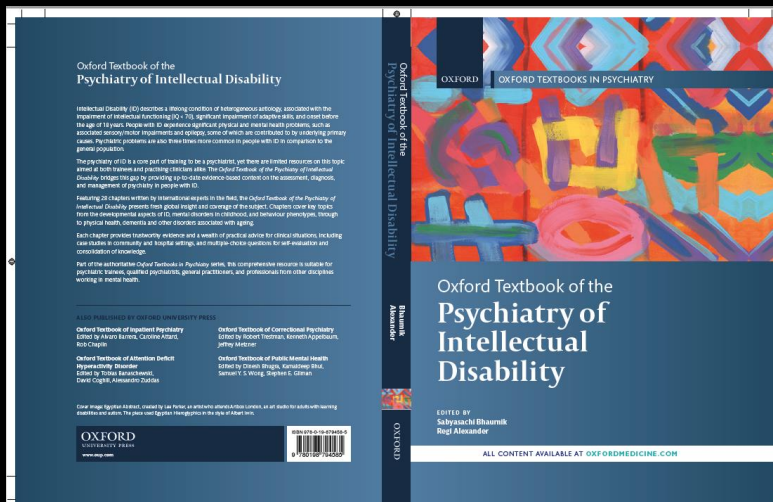
Clinical Pharmacist, Norfolk & Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust  
Advisory board member, RADiANT



Paranoid, Schizoid, Schizotypal	Paranoid, Schizoid
Antisocial, Borderline, Histrionic, Narcissistic	Dissocial, Emotionally unstable, Histrionic
Avoidant, Dependent Obsessive compulsive	Anxious, Dependent Anankastic

**❖ *Alleviating distress in the absence of no other available treatment options***

**❖ *Avoiding inappropriate prescribing including over-medication***



**NHS Health Education England**

Working in community settings with people with learning disabilities and autistic people who are at risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system.

A resource for health and social care staff

Developing people for health and healthcare

www.hee.nhs.uk

# SOURCE

FR/ID/09

Psychotropic drug prescribing for people with intellectual disability, mental health problems and/or behaviours that challenge: practice guidelines

Faculty of Psychiatry of Intellectual Disability

FACULTY REPORT

**NICE** National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

**NICE guideline**

Challenging behaviour and learning disabilities: prevention and interventions for people with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges

NICE guideline  
Published: 29 May 2015  
www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng11

**NICE** National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

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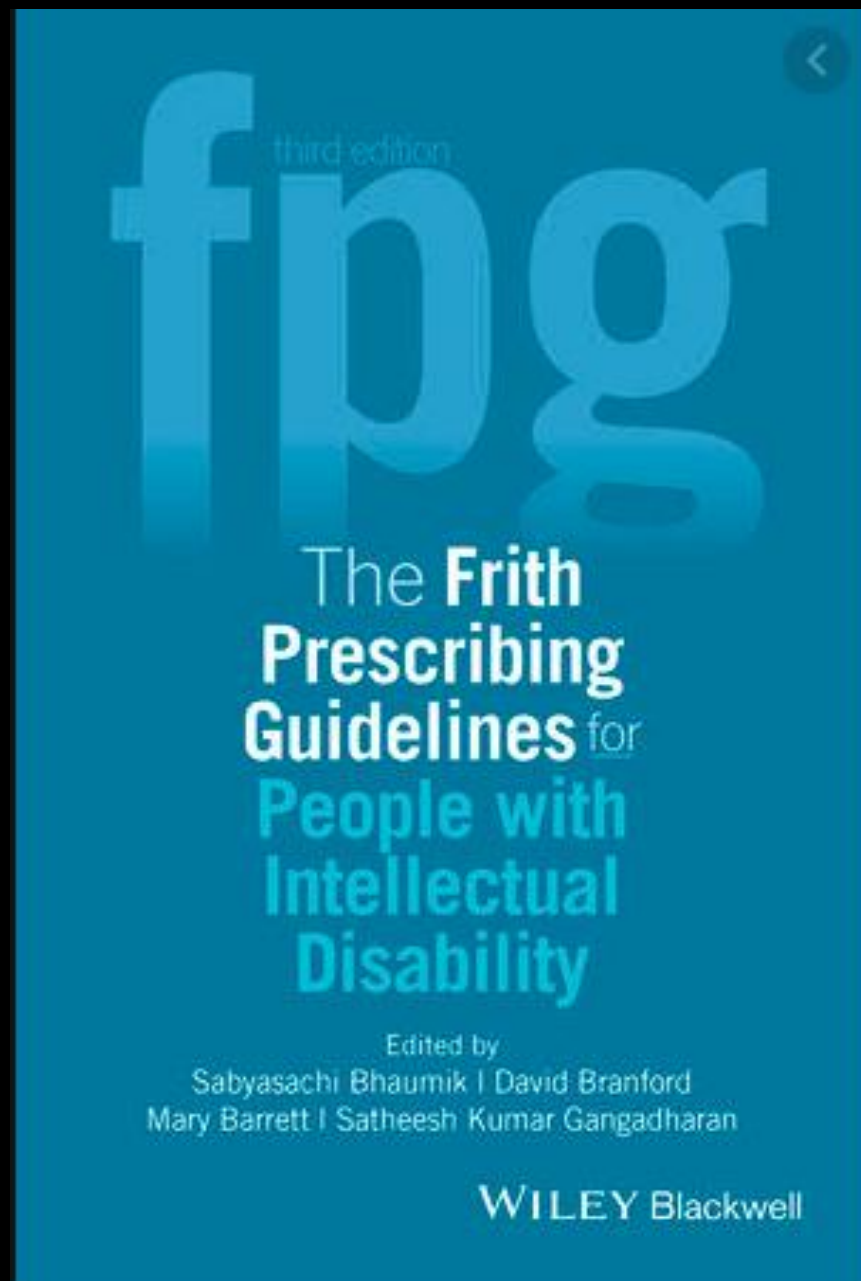
Read about [our approach to COVID-19](#)

Home > NICE Guidance > Conditions and diseases > Mental health and behavioural conditions > Mental health services

## Mental health problems in people with learning disabilities: prevention, assessment and management

NICE guideline [NG54] | Published date: 14 September 2016 | [Register as a stakeholder](#)

- ❖ **Do treat co-morbidity-actively**
- ❖ **Don't prescribe for PD alone**
- ❖ **If you have to, think of proposed symptom domains**

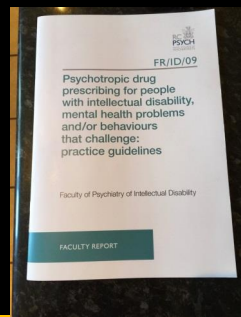


- ❖ **Proportion of people with ID treated with psychotropics exceed the proportion with recorded mental illness. 71% of those with ID prescribed an antipsychotic did not have a severe mental illness. Sheehan et al <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h4326>**
- ❖ **Problem not confined to LD either. In the general population, 50% of those prescribed an antipsychotic did not have a recorded severe mental illness**

# Challenges in ID

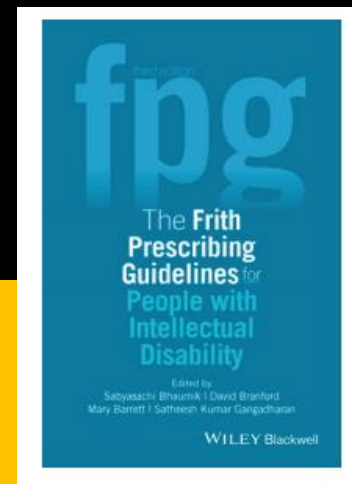
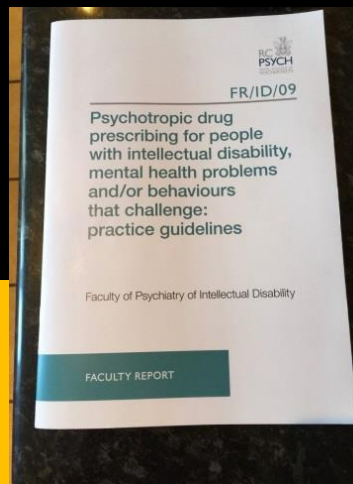
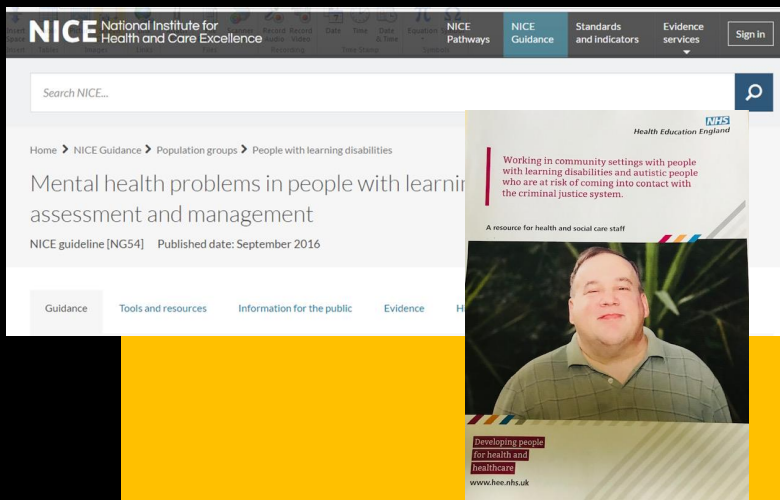
- ❖ **Mental health co-morbidity: point prevalence 30%, diagnostic overshadowing and under- recognition**
- ❖ **Vulnerability to psychosocial disadvantage**
- ❖ **Physical health co-morbidity**

# Approaches to prescribing



- ❖ **Challenging Behaviour NOT associated with any mental illness or disorder**
- ❖ **Challenging Behaviour associated with a mental illness or disorder**
- ❖ **Challenging Behaviour associated with some psychiatric symptoms; but they do not quite fulfil the full criteria for a mental illness or disorder**





- ❖ **There are categories for atypical presentations in all diagnostic systems- ICD, DSM, DMID or DC-LD**
- ❖ **The narrative account of the symptoms and symptom clusters is important.**
- ❖ **Any prescribing should be based on that narrative account- whether it be syndromal or symptom specific.**

**Cognitive perceptual**  
**48%**

**1. Chronic:**

**2. Acute exacerbation:**

**Affective dys-regulation**  
**79%**

**1. Dysthymia like:**

**2. Mood swings:**

**Behaviour Dyscontrol**  
**97%**

**1. Affective:**

**2. Ictal:**

**3. Predatory:**

**Anxiety**  
**34%**

**1. Somatic:**

**2. Cognitive:**

**SIB**  
**52%**

**1. Repetitive & stereotyped:**

**2. Severe tissue damage:**

**3. Self injury & agitation:**

**4. Suspected compulsive element**

**Cognitive perceptual**

**Chronic:**

Low dose antipsychotic drugs

**Acute exacerbation:**

antipsychotic drugs

**Affective dys-regulation**

**Dysthymia**

**like:**  
SSRIs,  
mood  
Stabilisers

**Mood swings:**

mood  
stabilisers,  
SSRIs,  
low dose  
Antipsychotic

**Behaviour dyscontrol**

**Affective:**

mood  
stabilisers,  
SSRIs,  
low dose  
Antipsychotic

**Ictal:**

Mood  
stabilisers,  
short term  
Benzos

**Predatory:**

Low dose  
antipsychotic

**Anxiety**

**Somatic:**

Beta blockers

**Cognitive:**

SSRIs,  
low dose  
antipsychotic  
&  
short term  
benzo

**SIB**

**Repetitive & stereotyped:**

Low dose  
antipsychotic

**Severe tissue damage:**

Opiate antagonists

**Self injury & agitation:**

mood stabilisers,  
beta blockers

**Suspected compulsive element**

: SSRIs

# Off label prescribing

- ❖ **Responsibilities of the prescriber  
(Good practice in prescribing and  
managing medicines and devices,  
GMC 2013)**

- ❖ *Overseeing all aspects of treatment*
  - ❖ *Record usage carefully*
  - ❖ *Inform parents and carers fully*

- ❖ **Explanation to patients**
- ❖ **Explanation to families and/or carers**
- ❖ **Easy read leaflets and reasonable adjustments**

# Does your treatment work?

❖ **Narrative accounts of improvement may not be enough.**

❖ **Supplemented by standardised measures: CGI - easy to administer, quick, can have multiple raters, can capture balance between effects and side effects**

Psychotropic drug  
prescribing for people  
with intellectual disability,  
mental health problems  
and/or behaviours  
that challenge:  
practice guidelines

Faculty of Psychiatry of Intellectual Disability

FACULTY REPORT

**CLINICAL GLOBAL IMPRESSIONS SCALE (Date: \_\_\_\_\_ )**


**1. Global improvement:** Rate total improvement whether or not, in your judgement, it is due entirely to drug treatment. Compared to his condition at admission to the project, how much has he changed?

0 = Not assessed  
 1 = Very much improved  
 2 = Much improved

3 = Minimally improved  
 4 = No change  
 5 = Minimally worse

6 = Much worse  
 7 = Very much worse

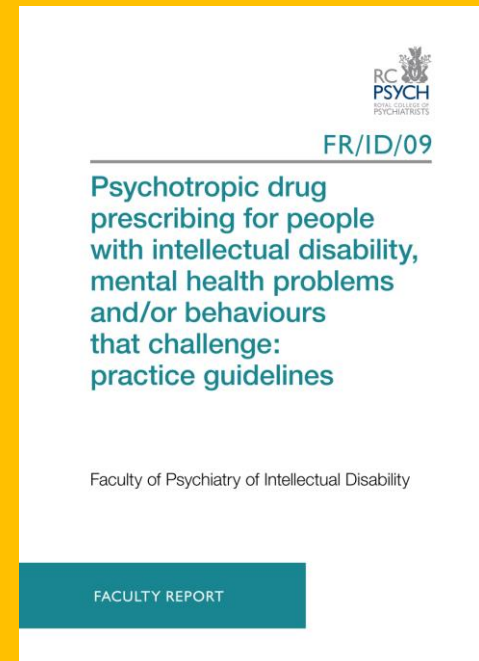
Score:

 **2. Efficacy index:** Rate this item on the basis of **drug effect only**. Select the terms which best describe the degrees of therapeutic effect and side effects and record the number in the box where the two items intersect.

Therapeutic effect		Side effects			
		None	Do not significantly interfere with <u>with</u> patient's functioning	Significantly interferes with patient's functioning	Outweighs therapeutic effect
<b>Marked</b>	Vast improvement. Complete or nearly complete remission of all symptoms	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>
	Decided improvement. Partial remission of symptoms	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>Minimal</b>	Slight improvement which doesn't alter status of care of patient	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>Unchanged or worse</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>

Score:

- ❖ **The self assessment framework**
- ❖ **Examples of case note entries for medication reviews**





## Key message 1

**THE KEY RESPONSIBILITY  
IS THE PRESCRIBERS'**

## Key message 2

**JUST WRITING  
“CHALLENGING  
BEHAVIOUR” MAY NOT BE  
PRECISE ENOUGH AS A  
RECORDED INDICATION FOR  
PRESCRIBING**

## Key message 3

**RECORD ALL DIAGNOSES  
SYSTEMATICALLY AND  
THE NARRATIVE THAT  
UNDERPINS IT.**

## Key message 4

- ❖ **RECORD TREATMENT TARGETS**
- ❖ **HAVE TIMEFRAMES**
- ❖ **COMMUNICATE THAT**

## Key message 5

**OFF LABEL PRESCRIBING IS  
NOT INAPPROPRIATE,  
UNLAWFUL OR UNETHICAL.  
HOWEVER, IF NOT DONE  
PROPERLY, IT CAN BE.**

## Key message 6

**USE A STANDARDISED  
OUTCOME MEASURE  
THAT CAN BE RECORDED  
QUICKLY AND  
IMPLEMENTED WIDELY**

## Key message 7

**PRESCRIBE RATIONALLY.  
REDUCING AND  
STOPPING MAY BE PART  
OF THAT PROCESS**

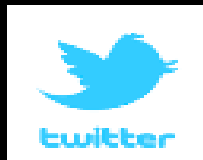
## Key message 8

**LARGE SCALE  
NATURALISTIC STUDIES/  
NATIONAL AUDITS ARE  
URGENTLY NEEDED**



## Contact details

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