

ATTACHMENT D

Guidelines for Writing Objectives

Please follow these guidelines for developing your objectives for your NCPA or Co-sponsored presentation.

- 1) Objectives must be both observable and measurable (by both quantitative and qualitative criteria) to be effective.
- 2) Use of words such as *understand*, *describe* and *learn* in writing objectives are generally not useful in terms of generating objectives as they are difficult to measure.
- 3) Objective should be unambiguous.
- 4) Objectives should be results oriented, clearly written, and specific.
- 5) Objectives should communicate successful learning in behavioral terms.

Examples:

1.

Unacceptable Learning Objective:

Participants will be able to recognize at least 6 common types of automatic thoughts illustrated by brief transcripts of client-psychologist therapeutic interactions.

Acceptable Learning Objective:

Participants will be able to identify and categorize accurately at least 6 common types of automatic thoughts illustrated by brief transcripts of client-psychologist therapeutic interactions.

2.

Unacceptable Learning Objective:

Participants will know the advantages of using SNRI antidepressants in the treatment of depressed adults.

Acceptable Learning Objective:

Participants will state at least 3 criteria for selecting an SNRI antidepressant vs. an SSRI antidepressant in the treatment of Major Depressive Disorder in adults with a history of recurrent depressive episodes.

3.

Unacceptable Learning Objective:

Participants will understand how to write case support goals that are acceptable for use in a person-centered case support plan.

Acceptable Learning Objective:

Based upon a vignette provided by the instructor, participants will write 3 case support goals that are consistent with the principles that guide the development of a person-centered case support plan.

4.

Unacceptable Learning Objective:

Participants will be able to distinguish a hypo manic episode from a manic episode.

Acceptable Learning Objective:

Participants will name 4 reliable criteria for distinguishing hypomania from mania.