

Treatment of Patients With Eating Disorders

Key Points

Assessment

Treatment

→ Key Points

- The goal of this guideline is to improve the quality of care and treatment outcomes for patients with eating disorders, as defined by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, Text Revision (DSM-5-TR; American Psychiatric Association 2013).
- We focus primarily on anorexia nervosa (AN), bulimia nervosa (BN), and binge-eating disorder (BED) rather than other feeding and eating disorders.
- The lifetime prevalence of eating disorders in the United States is approximately 0.80% for AN, 0.28% for BN, and 0.85% for BED.
- ➤ The lifetime burdens and psychosocial impairments associated with an eating disorder can be substantial because these illnesses typically have an onset in adolescence or early adulthood and can persist for decades.
- Eating disorders are associated with increases in all-cause mortality and deaths due to suicide.
- Morbidity and mortality among individuals with an eating disorder are heightened by the common co-occurrence of health conditions, such as diabetes, and other psychiatric disorders, particularly depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and substance use disorders.
- This guideline is intended to enhance the assessment and treatment of eating disorders, thereby reducing the mortality, morbidity, and significant psychosocial and health consequences of these important psychiatric conditions.

Table	Table 1. Grading Recommendations			
Grade	Description			
1	Recommendation: indicates confidence that the benefits of the intervention clearly outweigh harms.			
2	Suggestion: indicates greater uncertainty; although the benefits of the statement are still viewed as outweighing the harms, balance of benefits and harms is more difficult to judge, or the benefits or the harms may be less clear. With a suggestion, patient values and preferences may be more variable, and this can influence the clinical decision that is ultimately made.			
Grade	Strength of Evidence			
Α	High: high confidence that the evidence reflects the true effect. Further research is very unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate of effect.			
В	Moderate: moderate confidence that the evidence reflects the true effect. Further research may change our confidence in the estimate of effect and may change the estimate.			
С	Low: low confidence that the evidence reflects the true effect. Further research is likely to change our confidence in the estimate of effect and is likely to change the estimate.			

Screening for Presence of an Eating Disorder

Statement 1

➤ APA recommends (1C) screening for the presence of an eating disorder as part of an initial psychiatric evaluation.

Ta	Table 2. Screening Questionnaires for Eating Disorders (Instructions: circle "Y" for "yes" and "N" for "no")					
sc	SCOFF Questionnaire (Morgan et al. 1999)					
Υ	/	N	Do you make yourself S ick because you feel uncomfortably full?			
Υ	/	N	Do you worry you have lost C ontrol over how much you eat?			
Υ	/	N	Have you recently lost >14 lbs (O ne stone) in a 3-month period?			
Υ	/	N	Do you believe yourself to be F at when others say you are too thin?			
Υ	/	N	Would you say that F ood dominates your life?			
Y	/	N	To assess for binge-eating disorder, add: During the last 3 months, did you have any episodes of excessive overeating (i.e., eating significantly more than what most people would eat in a similar period of time)?			
Sc	ree	en fo	or Disordered Eating (Maguen et al. 2018)			
Υ	/	N	Do you often feel the desire to eat when you are emotionally upset or stressed?			
Υ	/	N	Do you often feel that you can't control what or how much you eat?			
Υ	/	N	Do you sometimes make yourself throw up (vomit) to control your weight?			
Υ	/	N	Are you often preoccupied with a desire to be thinner?			
Υ	/	N	Do you believe yourself to be fat when others say you are too thin?			
Ea	tin	g Di	isorder Screen for Primary Care (Cotton et al. 2003)			
Υ	/	N	Are you satisfied with your eating patterns? Answering "no" to this question is classified as an abnormal response.			
Υ	/	N	Do you ever eat in secret? Answering "yes" to this and all other questions is classified as an abnormal response.			
Υ	/	N	Does your weight affect the way you feel about yourself?			
Υ	/	N	Have any members of your family suffered with an eating disorder?			
Υ	/	N	Do you make yourself sick because you feel uncomfortably full?			

Initial Evaluation of Eating History

Statement 2

- ➤ APA recommends (1C) that the initial evaluation of a patient with a possible eating disorder include assessment of:
 - the patient's height and weight history (e.g., maximum and minimum weight, recent weight changes);
 - presence of, patterns in, and changes in restrictive eating, food avoidance, binge eating, and other eating-related behaviors (e.g., rumination, regurgitation, chewing and spitting);
 - patterns and changes in food repertoire (e.g., breadth of food variety, narrowing or elimination of food groups);
 - presence of, patterns in, and changes in compensatory and other weight control behaviors, including dietary restriction, compulsive or driven exercise, purging behaviors (e.g., laxative use, self-induced vomiting), and use of medication to manipulate weight;
 - percentage of time preoccupied with food, weight, and body shape:
 - prior treatment and response to treatment for an eating disorder;
 - psychosocial impairment secondary to eating or body image concerns or behaviors; and
 - family history of eating disorders, other psychiatric illnesses, and other medical conditions (e.g., obesity, inflammatory bowel disease, diabetes mellitus).

Quantitative Measures

Statement 3

APA recommends (1C) that the initial psychiatric evaluation of a patient with a possible eating disorder include weighing the patient and quantifying eating and weight control behaviors (e.g., frequency, intensity, or time spent on dietary restriction, binge eating, purging, exercise, and other compensatory behaviors).

Identification of Co-Occurring Conditions

Statement 4

APA recommends (1C) that the initial psychiatric evaluation of a patient with a possible eating disorder identify co-occurring health conditions, including co-occurring psychiatric disorders.

Initial Review of Systems

Statement 5

APA recommends (1C) that the initial psychiatric evaluation of a patient with a possible eating disorder include a comprehensive review of systems.

Table 3. Signs and Symptoms of Eating Disorders					
Organ System	Symptom/Sign ¹				
	Related to nutritional restriction	Related to purging			
General	Low weight, cachexia				
General	Fatigue				
General	Weakness	Weakness			
General	Dehydration				
General	Cold intolerance, <i>low body temperature</i>				
General	Hot flashes, sweating				
Nervous system	Anxiety, depression, or irritability	Anxiety, depression, or irritability			
Nervous system	Apathy	Apathy			
Nervous system	Poor concentration	Poor concentration			
Nervous system	Headache	Headache			
Nervous system	Seizures (in severe cases)	Seizures (in severe cases)			
Nervous system		Paresthesia (due to electrolyte abnormalities)			
Nervous system	Peripheral polyneuropathy (in severe cases)				
Oropharyngeal	Dysphagia				
Oropharyngeal		Dental enamel erosion and decay			
Oropharyngeal		Enlarged salivary glands			
Oropharyngeal		Pharyngeal pain			
Oropharyngeal		Palatal scratches, erythema, or petechiae			

Table 3. Signs and Symptoms of Eating Disorders (cont'd)						
Organ System	Symptom/ <i>Sign</i> ¹					
	Related to nutritional restriction	Related to purging				
Gastrointestinal	Abdominal discomfort	Abdominal discomfort				
Gastrointestinal	Constipation	Constipation				
Gastrointestinal		Diarrhea (due to laxative use)				
Gastrointestinal	Nausea					
Gastrointestinal	Early satiety					
Gastrointestinal	Abdominal distention, bloating	Abdominal distention, bloating				
Gastrointestinal		Heartburn, gastroesophageal erosions or inflammation				
Gastrointestinal		Vomiting, possibly blood- streaked				
Gastrointestinal		Rectal prolapse				
Cardiovascular	Dizziness, faintness, orthostatic hypotension	Dizziness, faintness, orthostatic hypotension				
Cardiovascular	Palpitations, arrhythmias	Palpitations, arrhythmias				
Cardiovascular	Bradycardia					
Cardiovascular	Weak irregular pulse					
Cardiovascular	Cold extremities, acrocyanosis					
Cardiovascular	Chest pain					
Cardiovascular	Dyspnea					
Reproductive/ Endocrine	Slowing of growth (in children or adolescents)	Slowing of growth (in children or adolescents)				
Reproductive/ Endocrine	Arrested development of secondary sex characteristics	Arrested development of secondary sex characteristics				
Reproductive/ Endocrine	Low libido	Low libido				
Reproductive/ Endocrine	Fertility problems					
Reproductive/ Endocrine	Oligomenorrhea	Oligomenorrhea				
Reproductive/ Endocrine	Primary or secondary amenorrhea					

Table 3. Signs and Symptoms of Eating Disorders (cont'd)						
Organ System	Symptom/Sign ¹					
	Related to nutritional restriction	Related to purging				
Musculoskeletal	Proximal muscle weakness, wasting, or atrophy					
Musculoskeletal		Muscle cramping				
Musculoskeletal	Bone pain ²	Bone pain ²				
Musculoskeletal	Stress fractures ²	Stress fractures ²				
Musculoskeletal	Slowed growth (relative to expected) ²	Slowed growth (relative to expected) ²				
Dermatological	Dry, yellow skin					
Dermatological	Change in hair including hair loss and dry and brittle hair					
Dermatological	Lanugo					
Dermatological		Scarring on dorsum of hand (Russell's sign)				
Dermatological	Poor skin turgor	Poor skin turgor				
Dermatological	Pitting edema (with refeeding)	Pitting edema				

¹ Symptoms are in regular font; signs are in italic font.

 $^{^2\,\}text{Risk}$ of skeletal effects is in individuals with previous low weight and menstrual irregularity or amenorrhea.

Initial Physical Examination

Statement 6

➤ APA recommends (1C) that the initial physical examination of a patient with a possible eating disorder include assessment of vital signs, including temperature, resting heart rate, blood pressure, orthostatic pulse, and orthostatic blood pressure; height, weight, and body mass index (BMI) (or percent median BMI, BMI percentile, or BMI Z-score for children and adolescents); and physical appearance, including signs of malnutrition or purging behaviors.

Initial Laboratory Assessment

Statement 7

➤ APA recommends (1C) that the laboratory assessment of a patient with a possible eating disorder include a complete blood count and a comprehensive metabolic panel, including electrolytes, liver enzymes, and renal function tests.

Table 4. Laboratory Abnormalities Related to Nutritional Restriction or Purging Behaviors

Recommendation	Organ system	Test
Recommended	Cardiovascular	ECG
Recommended	Metabolic	Serum electrolytes
		Lipid panel
		Serum glucose
Recommended	Gastrointestinal	Liver function and associated tests
Recommended	Genitourinary	Renal function tests
Based on history or exam	Genitourinary	Urinalysis
Based on history or exam	Reproductive	Serum gonadotropins and sex hormones
Based on history or exam	Skeletal	Bone densitometry (DXA scan)
Incidental	Oropharyngeal	Dental radiography

Abbreviations: BMD=bone mineral density; BUN=blood urea nitrogen; Cr=creatinine; DXA=dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry; ECG=electrocardiogram; GFR=glomerular filtration rate; QTc=corrected QT interval

Related to nutritional restriction	Related to purging
Bradycardia or arrhythmias, QTc prolongation	Increased P-wave amplitude and duration, increased PR interval, widened QRS complex, QTc prolongation, ST depression, T-wave inversion or flattening, U waves, supraventricular or ventricular tachyarrhythmias
Hypokalemia, hyponatremia, hypomagnesemia, hypophosphatemia (especially on refeeding)	Hypokalemia, hyponatremia, hypochloremia, hypomagnesemia, hypophosphatemia, metabolic acidosis
Hypercholesterolemia	
Low blood sugar	
Elevated liver function tests	
Increased BUN, decreased GFR, decreased Cr because of low lean body mass (normal Cr may indicate azotemia), renal failure (rare)	Increased BUN and Cr, renal failure (rare)
Urinary specific gravity abnormalities	Urinary specific gravity abnormalities, high pH
Decreased serum estrogen or serum testosterone; prepubertal patterns of luteinizing hormone, follicle stimulating hormone secretion	May be hypoestrogenemic if menstrual irregularities are present
Reduced BMD, osteopenia, or osteoporosis in individuals with previous low weight and menstrual irregularity or amenorrhea	Reduced BMD, osteopenia or osteoporosis in individuals with previous low weight and menstrual irregularity or amenorrhea
	Erosion of dental enamel

Initial Electrocardiogram

Statement 8

➤ APA recommends (1C) that an electrocardiogram be done in patients with a restrictive eating disorder, patients with severe purging behavior, and patients who are taking medications that are known to prolong QTc intervals.

Treatment Plan, Including Level of Care

Statement 9

APA recommends (1C) that patients with an eating disorder have a documented, comprehensive, culturally appropriate, and personcentered treatment plan that incorporates medical, psychiatric, psychological, and nutritional expertise, commonly via a coordinated multidisciplinary team.

Table 5. Considerations in Determining an Appropriate Level of Care

- Factors that suggest significant medical instability, which may require
 hospitalization for acute medical stabilization, including need for
 monitoring, fluid management (including intravenous fluids), electrolyte
 replacement, or nutritional supplementation via nasogastric tube feeding
 (see Table 6)
- Factors that suggest a need for inpatient psychiatric treatment (e.g., significant suicide risk, aggressive behaviors, impaired safety due to psychosis/self-harm, need for treatment over objection or involuntary treatment)
- Co-occurring conditions (e.g., diabetes, substance use disorders) that would significantly affect treatment needs and require a higher level of care.
- Lack of response or deterioration in patient's condition in individuals receiving outpatient treatment
- Extent to which the patient is able to decrease or stop eating disorder and weight control behaviors (e.g., dietary restriction, binge eating, purging, excessive exercise) without meal support or monitoring
- Level of motivation to recover, including insight, cooperation with treatment, and willingness to engage in behavior change
- Psychosocial context, including level of environmental and psychosocial stress and ability to access support systems
- Extent to which a patient's access to a level of care is influenced by logistical factors (e.g., geographical considerations; financial or insurance considerations; access to transportation or housing; school, work, or childcare needs)

Table 6. Factors Supporting Medical Hospitalization or Hospitalization on a Specialized Eating Disorder Unit

Factor	Adults
Heart rate	<50 bpm
Orthostatic change in heart rate	Sustained increase of >30 bpm
Blood pressure	<90/60 mmHg
Orthostatic blood pressure	>20 mmHg drop in sBP
Glucose	<60 mg/dL
Potassium	Hypokalemia ¹
Sodium	Hyponatremia ¹
Phosphate	Hypophosphatemia ¹
Magnesium	Hypomagnesemia ¹
Temperature	<36° C (<96.8° F)
BMI	<15
Rapidity of weight change	>10% weight loss in 6 months or >20% weight loss in 1 year
Compensatory behaviors	Occur frequently and have either caused serious physiological consequences or not responded to treatment at a lower level of care
ECG	Prolonged QTc >450 or other significant ECG abnormalities
Other conditions	Acute medical complications of malnutrition (e.g., seizures, syncope, cardiac failure, pancreatitis)

¹ Reference ranges for potassium, sodium, phosphate, and magnesium and numerical thresholds for values that determine hypokalemia, hyponatremia, hypophosphatemia, and hypomagnesemia depend upon the clinical laboratory.

Abbreviations: BMI=body mass index; bpm=beats per minute; ECG=electrocardiogram; mmHg=mm mercury; QTc=corrected QT interval; sBP=systolic blood pressure

Adolescents (12–19 years)
 <50 bpm
Sustained increase of >40 bpm
<90/45 mmHg
>20 mmHg drop in sBP
<60 mg/dL
Hypokalemia ¹
Hyponatremia ¹
Hypophosphatemia ¹
Hypomagnesemia ¹
<36° C (<96.8° F)
<75% of median BMI for age and sex
>10% weight loss in 6 months or >20% weight loss in 1 year
Occur frequently and have either caused serious physiological consequences or not responded to treatment at a lower level of care
Prolonged QTc >450 or other significant ECG abnormalities
Acute medical complications of malnutrition (e.g., seizures, syncope, cardiac failure, pancreatitis), arrested growth and development

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Table /.		1-11-11	ICS OI	Leve	13 U I	Care

Unit security Patient legal status Physician on-site 24/7 Nursing on-site 24/7 Nursing on-site 24/7 Medical monitoring Frequent Hours of operation Available interventions Option for IV hydration Option for reatment over objection Medical management Yes Psychological management Yes Individual psychotherapies Meal supervision and support Multi-disciplinary team-based Voluntary or involuntary Valfa Ves Prequent Yes Psycholo, in some instances Associated Yes Yes Psychological management Yes All meals/day Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes		Specialized pediatric/medical
Patient legal status Physician on-site 24/7 Nursing on-site 24/7 Nursing on-site 24/7 Medical monitoring Frequent Hours of operation Available interventions Option for IV hydration Option for nasogastric tube feedings Option for treatment over objection Medical management Yes Psychiatric management Yes Psychological management Yes Individual psychotherapies Meal supervision and support Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes Voluntary or involuntary On-site 24/7 On-site 24/7 Medica4/7 School, in some instances Xes Yes Yes Psychological for IV hydration Yes Yes All meals/day Nutritional management Yes Nutritional management Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Level of care	inpatient eating disorders program
Physician on-site 24/7 Nursing on-site 24/7 On-site 24/7 Medical monitoring Frequent Hours of operation Able to maintain work/school School, in some instances Available interventions Option for IV hydration Option for reatment over objection Medical management Yes Psychiatric management Yes Psychological management Yes Individual psychotherapies Yes Meal supervision and support Milieu therapy Yes Nutritional management Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes On-site 24/7 Prequent Frequent Yes At lance 24/7 Able to maintain verk/school School, in some instances Yes Option for IV hydration Yes Option for IV hydration Yes All meals/day Nutritional management Yes Nutritional management Yes	Unit security	Unlocked
Nursing on-site 24/7 Medical monitoring Frequent Hours of operation 24/7 Able to maintain work/school School, in some instances Available interventions Option for IV hydration Option for nasogastric tube feedings Option for treatment over objection Medical management Yes Psychiatric management Yes Group-based therapies Individual psychotherapies Yes Meal supervision and support Milieu therapy Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes Medical management Yes All meals/day	Patient legal status	Voluntary or involuntary
Medical monitoring Frequent Hours of operation 24/7 Able to maintain work/school School, in some instances Available interventions Option for IV hydration Yes Option for nasogastric tube feedings Yes Option for treatment over objection Yes Medical management Yes Psychiatric management Yes Psychological management Yes Group-based therapies Yes Individual psychotherapies Yes Meal supervision and support All meals/day Milieu therapy Yes Mutritional management Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Physician on-site 24/7	On-site 24/7
Hours of operation Able to maintain work/school School, in some instances Available interventions Option for IV hydration Option for nasogastric tube feedings Option for treatment over objection Medical management Yes Psychiatric management Yes Psychological management Yes Group-based therapies Individual psychotherapies Yes Meal supervision and support Milieu therapy Yes Mutritional management Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Nursing on-site 24/7	On-site 24/7
Able to maintain work/school School, in some instances Available interventions Option for IV hydration Option for nasogastric tube feedings Option for treatment over objection Medical management Psychiatric management Yes Psychological management Yes Group-based therapies Individual psychotherapies Yes Meal supervision and support All meals/day Milieu therapy Yes Mutritional management Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Medical monitoring	Frequent
Available interventions Option for IV hydration Yes Option for nasogastric tube feedings Yes Option for treatment over objection Yes Medical management Yes Psychiatric management Yes Psychological management Yes Group-based therapies Yes Individual psychotherapies Yes Family psychotherapies Yes Meal supervision and support All meals/day Milieu therapy Yes Mutritional management Yes Mutritional management Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Hours of operation	24/7
Option for IV hydration Yes Option for nasogastric tube feedings Yes Option for treatment over objection Yes Medical management Yes Psychiatric management Yes Psychological management Yes Group-based therapies Yes Individual psychotherapies Yes Family psychotherapies Yes Meal supervision and support All meals/day Milieu therapy Yes Nutritional management Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Able to maintain work/school	School, in some instances
Option for nasogastric tube feedings Option for treatment over objection Medical management Yes Psychiatric management Yes Psychological management Yes Group-based therapies Individual psychotherapies Yes Family psychotherapies Yes Meal supervision and support All meals/day Milieu therapy Yes Nutritional management Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Available interventions	
Option for treatment over objection Medical management Psychiatric management Yes Psychological management Yes Group-based therapies Individual psychotherapies Family psychotherapies Meal supervision and support Milieu therapy Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes Yes Medical management Yes All meals/day Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Option for IV hydration	Yes
Medical management Psychiatric management Yes Psychological management Yes Group-based therapies Individual psychotherapies Yes Family psychotherapies Yes Meal supervision and support All meals/day Milieu therapy Yes Nutritional management Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Option for nasogastric tube feedings	Yes
Psychiatric management Psychological management Yes Group-based therapies Individual psychotherapies Yes Family psychotherapies Yes Meal supervision and support Milieu therapy Yes Nutritional management Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Option for treatment over objection	Yes
Psychological management Group-based therapies Individual psychotherapies Family psychotherapies Yes Meal supervision and support Milieu therapy Yes Nutritional management Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Medical management	Yes
Group-based therapies Individual psychotherapies Yes Family psychotherapies Yes Meal supervision and support Milieu therapy Yes Nutritional management Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Psychiatric management	Yes
Individual psychotherapies Family psychotherapies Yes Meal supervision and support All meals/day Milieu therapy Yes Nutritional management Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Psychological management	Yes
Family psychotherapies Yes Meal supervision and support All meals/day Milieu therapy Yes Nutritional management Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Group-based therapies	Yes
Meal supervision and support All meals/day Milieu therapy Yes Nutritional management Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Individual psychotherapies	Yes
Milieu therapy Yes Nutritional management Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Family psychotherapies	Yes
Nutritional management Yes Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Meal supervision and support	All meals/day
Multi-disciplinary team-based Yes	Milieu therapy	Yes
	Nutritional management	Yes
management	Multi-disciplinary team-based management	Yes

General pediatric/ medical inpatient program	Specialized psychiatric inpatient eating disorders program	General psychiatric inpatient program
Unlocked	Typically locked	Typically locked
Voluntary	Voluntary or involuntary	Voluntary or involuntary
On-site 24/7	On-call or on-site 24/7	On-call or on-site 24/7
On-site 24/7	On-site 24/7	On-site 24/7
Frequent	Frequent	Frequent
24/7	24/7	24/7
School, in some instances	School, in some instances	School, in some instances
Yes	On some units	On some units
Yes	On some units	On some units
Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Consultation	Consultation
Consultation	Yes	Not eating disorder- specific
In some instances	Yes	On some units, not eating disorder specific
No	Yes	Not eating disorder- specific
Generally not available	Yes	Not eating disorder- specific
Generally not available	On some units	Not eating disorder- specific
In some instances	All meals/day	Not eating disorder- specific
No	Yes	Not eating disorder- specific
Consultation	Yes	Consultation
In some instances, not eating disorder specific	Yes	Not eating disorder- specific

Level of care	Residential program
Jnit security	Unlocked
Patient legal status	Voluntary
Physician on-site 24/7	On-call 24/7
Nursing on-site 24/7	Typically on-site 24/7
Medical monitoring	Limited
Hours of operation	24/7
Able to maintain work/school	School, in some instances
Available interventions	
Option for IV hydration	No
Option for nasogastric tube feedings	Typically not
Option for treatment over objection	No
Medical management	Limited consultation
Psychiatric management	Yes
Psychological management	Yes
Group-based therapies	Yes
ndividual psychotherapies	Yes
Family psychotherapies	Yes
Meal supervision and support	All meals/day
Milieu therapy	Yes
Nutritional management	Yes
Multi-disciplinary team-based	Yes

Partial hospital	Intensive outpatient	Outpatient	
Unlocked	Unlocked	Unlocked	
Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary	
Typically not on-site full-time	Not on-site full-time	No	
Typically not on-site full-time	Typically not on-site	No	
Limited	Limited	As indicated	
Variable hours per day (5-12 hours) and days per week (5-7)	3-4 hours per day, 3-7 days per week	1–2 psychotherapy sessions per week with additional visits with other clinicians a indicated	
School, in some instances	Often	Yes	
No	No	No	
No	No	No	
No	No	No	
Limited consultation	No	Outpatient, as indicated	
Yes	Variable	As indicated	
Yes	Yes	Yes	
Yes	Yes	As indicated	
Yes	Yes	Yes	
Yes	Yes	Yes	
2-3 meals/day	~1 meal/day	Provided by family or care partners	
Yes	Yes	No	
Yes	Variable	As indicated	
Yes	Yes	As indicated	

→ Treatment

ANOREXIA NERVOSA

Medical Stabilization, Nutritional Rehabilitation, and Weight Restoration

Statement 10

APA recommends (1C) that patients with anorexia nervosa who require nutritional rehabilitation and weight restoration have individualized goals set for weekly weight gain and target weight.

Psychotherapy in Adults

Statement 11

APA recommends (1B) that adults with anorexia nervosa be treated with an eating disorder-focused psychotherapy, which should include normalizing eating and weight control behaviors, restoring weight, and addressing psychological aspects of the disorder (e.g., fear of weight gain, body image disturbance).

Table 8. Components of Psychotherapies for the Treatment of Anorexia Nervosa

Component

In-session weighing

Individualized case formulation

Motivational phase of treatment

Focus on interpersonal issues/emotional expression

Monitoring of symptoms, including eating

Examining association of symptoms/eating with cognitions

Focus on building activities/passions to minimize overconcern with weight/body shape

Use of an experimental mindset to change attitudes and behaviors

Parent-facilitated meal supervision

Abbreviations: AFT=adolescent focused individual therapy; CBT-AN=cognitive-behavioral therapy for anorexia nervosa; CBT-E=enhanced cognitive-behavioral therapy for eating disorders; ECHO=Experienced Carers Helping Others; FBT=family-based therapy/treatment; FPT=focal psychodynamic psychotherapy; MANTRA=Maudsley Model of Anorexia Nervosa Treatment for Adults; SSCM=Specialist Supportive Clinical Management

Family-Based Treatment in Adolescents and Emerging Adults

Statement 12

➤ APA recommends (1B) that adolescents and emerging adults with anorexia nervosa who have an involved caregiver be treated with eating disorder-focused family-based treatment, which should include caregiver education aimed at normalizing eating and weight control behaviors and restoring weight.

CBT-AN	СВТ-Е	FPT	SSCM	MANTRA	ЕСНО	AFT	FBT
×	×		×	×			×
×	×	×		×		×	×
×	×	×		×	×	×	
×	×	×	×	×	×	×	(indirectly)
×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
×	×						
×	×		If raised by patient		×		×
×	×			×			×
					×		×

→ Treatment

BULIMIA NERVOSA

Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy and Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor Treatment for Adults

Statement 13

➤ APA recommends (1C) that adults with bulimia nervosa be treated with eating disorder-focused cognitive-behavioral therapy and that a serotonin reuptake inhibitor (e.g., 60 mg fluoxetine daily) also be prescribed, either initially or if there is minimal or no response to psychotherapy alone by 6 weeks of treatment.

Family-Based Treatment in Adolescents and Emerging Adults

Statement 14

APA suggests (2C) that adolescents and emerging adults with bulimia nervosa who have an involved caregiver be treated with eating disorder-focused family-based treatment.

BINGE-EATING DISORDER

Psychotherapy

Statement 15

➤ APA recommends (1C) that patients with binge-eating disorder be treated with eating disorder-focused cognitive-behavioral therapy or interpersonal therapy, in either individual or group formats.

Medications in Adults

Statement 16

➤ APA suggests (2C) that adults with binge-eating disorder who prefer medication or have not responded to psychotherapy alone be treated with either an antidepressant medication or lisdexamfetamine.

Abbreviations

ADHD, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder; AFT, adolescent focused individual therapy; AN, anorexia nervosa; APA, American Psychiatric Association; BED, binge-eating disorder; BMD, bone mineral density: BMI, body mass index; BN, bulimia nervosa; bpm, beats per minute; BUN, blood urea nitrogen; CBT, cognitive-behavioral therapy; CBT-AN, cognitivebehavioral therapy for anorexia nervosa; CBT-E, enhanced cognitive-behavioral therapy; Cr. creatinine: DSM-5-TR. Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Fifth Edition, Text Revision; DXA, dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry; ECG, electrocardiogram; ECHO, Experienced Carers Helping Others; FBT, family-based therapy/treatment; FPT, focal psychodynamic psychotherapy; GFR, glomerular filtration rate; MANTRA, Maudsley Model of Anorexia Nervosa Treatment for Adults; mmHg, mm mercury; OCD, obsessive-compulsive disorder; PTSD, posttraumatic stress disorder; QTc, corrected QT interval; sBP, systolic blood pressure; SSCM, Specialist Supportive Clinical Management; SPT, supportive psychotherapy

Source

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International 1258 Upsala Rd Guidelines Center

Sanford, FL 32771

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