

# Understanding and Treating Chronic Pain In Military Personnel

This intensive two-day module provides training in the assessment, management and cognitive-behavioral treatment of chronic pain. The module lays the foundation for working with military connected individuals suffering from chronic pain by reviewing the rates and mechanisms of chronic pain in civilian and military populations, including the role of military culture. Furthermore, theories of chronic pain will be introduced with a focus on biological, psychological and social factors impacting chronic pain. Participants will develop case conceptualization skills grounded by the clinical interview and empirically based assessment tools. Participants will learn and have the opportunity to practice key intervention strategies. In addition to learning CBT skills/techniques for working with chronic pain patients, participants will explore the role of motivational interviewing practices in CBT for chronic pain. The workshop also discusses common challenges to psychological service for pain management and ways to overcome those barriers. The module is designed for behavioral health providers working with Service Members, Veterans and their families who are seeking in-depth training in empirically supported treatment options they can immediately incorporate into their clinical practice. Participants are expected to actively engage in class activities and attend both days.

**Target Audience:** For behavioral health providers who treat military personnel, veterans, and their families.

**Instructional Level:** Intermediate

#### **Learning Objectives:**

Following the training, providers will be able to:

- 1. Specify prevalence rates of chronic pain in military and civilian populations.
- 2. Formulate treatment considerations specific to a military population when utilizing CBT-CP.
- 3. Integrate common comorbid mental health conditions into treatment planning for military-connected patients.
- 4. Evaluate the contribution of opioid medication to a patient's experience of chronic pain.
- 5. Apply the biopsychosocial model to the process of clinical case conceptualization.
- 6. Perform differential diagnosis using DSM-5 diagnoses relevant to the chronic pain population.
- 7. Demonstrate a psychological chronic pain-focused clinical interview including biological, physical, and social domains.
- 8. Score and interpret relevant, subjective assessment measures for pain.
- 9. Develop treatment goals for pain management using the SMART model.
- 10. Apply targeted relaxation practice as pain coping strategy.
- 11. Develop behavioral interventions to target under- and/or over-activity patterns that



exacerbate chronic pain.

- 12. Modify pleasurable activities given realistic pain limitations to increase behavioral activation.
- 13. Apply cognitive strategies to modify unhelpful pain-related cognitions.
- 14. Design a plan to address common challenges in implementing CBT-CP with patients.

#### Agenda:

### **Dav One**

Day One	
Check-in	8:45am – 9:00am
Introduction & Course Overview	9:00am – 9:15am
Pain: Definitions, Epidemiology, & Related Military Factors	9:15am - 10:30am
Comorbid Psychological Conditions	10:30am - 11:15am
Break	11:15am - 11:30am
Theories & Models of Pain	11:30am - 12:00pm
Pain Diagnoses	12:00pm - 12:15pm
Evidence Base for CBT-CP & Treatment Structure	12:15pm – 12:45pm



Lunch Break	12:45pm – 1:45pm
Initial Phase of Treatment: Assessment, Case Conceptualization, Goal-Setting, Psychoeducation, Self-Monitoring	1:45pm – 5:30pm *Inc 15 min Break

## **Day Two**

Day 1wo	
Check-in	8:45am – 9:00am
Middle Phase of Treatment: Relaxation, Activity Pacing, Behavioral Activation	9:00am - 11:45am *Inc 15 min Break
Middle Phase of Treatment: Cognitive Strategies	11:45am – 1:15pm
Lunch Break	1:15pm – 2:15pm
Middle Phase of Treatment: Sleep	2:15pm - 2:30pm
Later Phase of Treatment	2:30pm – 3:00pm
Special Considerations & Role of Motivational Interviewing	3:00pm - 4:30pm *Inc 15 min Break



Case Conceptualization Exercise	4:30pm – 5:30pm

Please note that break times are approximate and subject to change.

9:00 - 5:30 minus 1.5 hours = 7 hours per day Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 9:00 am - 5:30 pm, ET Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 9:00 am - 5:30 pm, ET

#### **Location Information**

This training will be held online via **Zoom Video Communications**.

A functioning microphone is MANDATORY to attend, in order to hear the presenters and participate in the role-play sessions. Headphones are HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to reduce audio feedback and echoing effects.

# **Participate**

## **Registration Information:**

Participants are able to find registration information for this training on the CDP website: <a href="https://deploymentpsych.org/training">https://deploymentpsych.org/training</a>. Registration is done through an event management system: Eventbrite.

Direct registration link:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cbt-cp-workshop-via-zoom-11-12-january-2022-registration-19461234977
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## Cost/Refunds: Price: \$45

Cancellations more than two weeks before the start of the event will receive a full refund, minus an approximate 10% credit card processing fee.

Cancellations less than two weeks, but more than one week before the event will receive a 50% refund. Any cancellations less than a week before the event date will not be eligible for a refund.



## **Special Accommodations:**

If you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Aric Bowie (aric.bowie.ctr@usuhs.edu) 4 weeks prior to the training so that we may provide you with appropriate service.

#### **Presenters**

Sharon Birman, Psy.D., is a Military Behavioral Health Psychologist working with the Military Training Programs at the Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP) at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. In this capacity, she develops and presents trainings on a variety of EBPs and deployment-related topics, as well as providing consultation services. She has traveled widely across the United States and OCONUS providing continuing education to civilian and military behavioral health providers teaching a variety of courses including Cognitive Therapy for Suicide Prevention, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain, Assessment of PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, Military Sexual Assault and Military Family Resilience.

She joined the CDP in 2014 after completing her postdoctoral fellowship at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, where she was actively involved in CBT and DBT intervention, supervision and education. She completed her predoctoral internship at Didi Hirsch Mental Health Center, focusing her training suicide prevention and evidence-based interventions for the treatment of individuals with severe, chronic mental illness. Dr. Birman received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Southern California and her master's and doctorate degrees in clinical psychology from Pepperdine University.

**Kelly Chrestman, Phd**, is a Senior Military Behavioral Health Psychologist at the Center for Deployment Psychology. She provides training, support and consultation in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and in the Assessment and Treatment of PTSD.

She works with the team at CDP to find new and better ways to link clinicians with both traditional and innovative resources that will help them implement EBPs more effectively. This includes leveraging computer technology and virtual assets to reach professionals that might otherwise have difficulty accessing high quality training and consultation.

Before coming to CDP, she trained at the National Center for PTSD in Boston, and at the University of Pennsylvania with Dr. Edna Foa. She is a Subject Matter Expert in Prolonged Exposure Therapy for PTSD and has trained numerous students and mental health professionals across the world in techniques for treating PTSD and other anxiety disorders. She also spent several years working closely with Native American Tribes where she focused on adapting evidence -based practice to better meet the needs of traditional Native communities.

She is co-author of the Adolescent PE Manual, *Prolonged Exposure Therapy for Adolescents with PTSD*, and has written about community and professional responses to trauma, particularly domestic violence and sexual assault. She is also a co-developer of the Virtual PTSD Learning Center and Operation Avatar, a game



based educational experience about trauma and combat-related PTSD, both hosted in the Second Life Virtual World platform.

# **Continuing Education**

The Center for Deployment Psychology is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Center for Deployment Psychology maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

The Center for Deployment Psychology offers attendees 14 credit hours for participation in this training. Participants attending events in person are required to sign-in at the start of the training and sign-out at the conclusion of the training in order to attain CE credit. Participant attendance data will be collected electronically during webinars. There is a 30-day time limit post-training to complete all CE requirements. Partial credits cannot be issued. Inquiries regarding CE credits may be directed via email to Aric Bowie at aric.bowie.ctr@usuhs.edu.

CEs provided by American Psychological Association sponsors are acceptable for most licensed professionals when renewing their license and it is our experience that these CE credits have been recognized by most professional state license boards. However, please check with your board regarding the acceptability of APA CE credits for this activity.