Today, as practitioners in all areas of the human services are increasingly held accountable for monitoring and evaluating their practices in an objective and efficient manner, a sound familiarity with objective measurement is more essential than ever before. In addition, practitioners must also be concerned with satisfying a dizzying array of state, agency, health maintenance organization, and insurance company guidelines. For more than twelve years, through two highly acclaimed editions and now in an updated and expanded third edition, Kevin Corcoran and Joel Fischer’s standard reference, Measures for Clinical Practice, has enabled professionals to gather this vital information easily and effectively. In Measures for Clinical Practice, Volume 1: Couples, Families, and Children, and Volume 2: Adults, Corcoran and Fischer provide an extensive collection of more than 400 rapid assessment instruments (RAIs), including many questionnaires and scales, which assess virtually any problem commonly encountered in clinical practice. Corcoran and Fischer have revised this edition to reflect new research and contemporary clinical practices. They include new scales and materials in areas such as assessment in culturally diverse populations and measurement in managed care systems, as well as the best instruments updated from the previous editions. Brief and easy to administer, these best practice measures will be useful for all types of therapeutic and theoretical orientations. All instruments are actually reprinted in the book, and are carefully introduced and evaluated to aid in their selection. Corcoran and Fischer explain the principles of measurement and how to apply them in practice. They explore the range of assessment techniques available, including behavioral observations, rating scales, and client logs, as well as
unobtrusive, electromechanical, and standardized measures. And after examining the advantages and disadvantages of rapid assessment instruments, they show practitioners how to effectively select and administer these measures as part of the treatment process. More comprehensive than ever, this edition of Measures for Clinical Practice is essential to every practitioner and student of social work, psychology, psychiatry, nursing, counseling, and the rehabilitative therapies.

My Personal Review:
Fischer and Corcoran complete another Herculean task with their 3rd edition of MEASURES FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE Volumes I and II. For each edition, the editors search the literature for instruments that demonstrate practical and research applications. They study and report on the calibration issues for each instrument. These issues include scoring, sampling, reliability and validity. Of course, they include the citations of their sources. Although the primary audience for these volumes are clinicians and researchers (in that order), I have been using these volumes as a teaching tool. After giving a lecture on the meaning of reliability and validity, I have my students search out an instrument and assess the quality it. MEASURES FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE Volumes I and II are ideal sources for this assignment. They look at the instrument for face validity and read the editor's commentary on sampling, reliability and validity; then comment on the application in the practice arena. Two limitations exist for these volumes. First, these are instruments for clinicians. The two volumes do not include any instruments that focus on macro variables that need to be measured. Perhaps a third volume should be considered for the next edition. Second, in terms of teaching instrument calibration to students, an expanded index would be most helpful. In the index, types of reliability and validity could be listed. Thus, students could hunt for an instrument that employs a technique they want to study. Fischer and Corcoran must be applauded that their painstaking work.

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