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Readers Clarify Use of the Term “Evidence-Based Practice”

We write because there is a clear need to address a practice that seems to be gaining in popularity, even though the practice is, unfortunately, incorrect. We are speaking of the practice of using the phrase “evidence-based research.” The phrase is an apparent misuse of the correct term, “evidence-based practice.” The term “evidence-based practice” re-

flects the fact that research produces the evidence on which decisions about treatment and care should be based. Research is conducted to create a body of knowledge on a given topic. The body of knowledge is then reviewed critically and systematically to determine recommendations for practice. The process produces guidelines or recommendations for evidence-based practice. The term “evidence-based research” is a misuse of the terms “evidence” and “research”

and is akin to saying “research-based research.” We hope that editors, reviewers, and authors will agree to use the correct terminology.

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