

EMPATHIAN CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

Assessment & Treatment of Patients with Severe Personality Disorders

A Continuing Education Program for Licensed Mental Health Clinicians

Empathian | Robert E. Feinstein, MD

6.75 CE hours

Course Overview

Despite their high prevalence in clinical caseloads, severe personality disorders remain among the most undertreated conditions in mental health practice. Most clinicians graduate with limited exposure to evidence-based personality disorder approach to treatments and receive insufficient supervised experience managing the complex clinical, relational, and emergency situations these patients present. This full-day continuing education program directly addresses that gap — moving sequentially from diagnosis and cinematic case illustration through the structural and technical foundations of treatment, disorder-specific intervention, and live supervised case application.

The program opens with a clinically rich examination of the difficult patient: how personality disorders are diagnosed, organized, and can be managed in clinical practice, brought to life through curated film illustration. Participants then move into the structural foundations of effective treatment — how to establish a treatment contract, diagnose levels of personality organization, and conduct sessions with patients. The first live supervision session, with participants case presentation, will focus on material presented in the morning. The afternoon focuses on disorder-specific strategies for Borderline and Narcissistic Personality Disorders before closing with a second live supervision sessions in which participants present their own complex cases for real-time expert feedback.

What You Will Learn

Participants will gain practical, integrative competencies across the full arc of personality disorder care, including:

- Accurate diagnosis and differential diagnosis of severe personality disorders, including Cluster B presentations
- Cinematic case illustration of personality disorder dynamics and clinical management challenges
- Understanding levels of personality organization and their implications for treatment planning and prognosis
- Establishing and maintaining an effective treatment contract with personality-disordered patients
- Techniques for conducting sessions — managing the frame, handling crises, and working with transference and countertransference
- Disorder-specific strategies for Borderline and Narcissistic Personality Disorders

- Live case supervision with real-time clinical reasoning and peer feedback

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

- Identify diagnostic criteria and perform differential diagnosis across severe personality disorder presentations, including BPD, NPD, and related Cluster B conditions
- Apply the concept of levels of personality organization to clinical assessment, treatment planning, and prognosis for patients with severe personality disorders
- Establish and maintain an effective treatment contract, including strategies for managing boundary violations, crises, and treatment-frame ruptures
- Demonstrate effective session-level clinical techniques for working with personality-disordered patients, including management of transference, countertransference, and resistance
- Apply disorder-specific assessment and treatment strategies to patients presenting with Borderline and Narcissistic Personality Disorders
- Demonstrate integrative clinical reasoning through live supervision of complex cases drawn from participants' own caseloads

Program Format

This live online, intensive, one-day program combines cinematic case illustration, integrative didactic instruction, and two live supervision sessions to ensure that skill transfer is immediate and concrete — not merely informational. Film is used not as entertainment but as a clinical teaching tool: curated scenes illuminate personality dynamics, diagnostic distinctions, and common treatment failures in ways that direct instruction alone cannot. Participants will have the opportunity to present their own clinical cases and receive structured, expert supervision in a small-group format.

Schedule at a Glance; September 26, 2026

Time	Session
8:00 – 8:15	Introduction & Program Overview
8:15 – 9:30	Session 1: The Difficult Patient — Diagnosis & Clinical Management of Personality Disorders & The Movies
9:30 – 10:30	Session 2: Establishing a Contract, Levels of Personality Organization & Conducting Sessions
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Break</i>
10:45 – 12:00	Session 3: Live Supervision — Session I (Participant Case Presentations)
12:00 – 1:00	<i>Lunch</i>
1:00 – 2:00	Session 4: Issues in the Assessment & Treatment of Borderline Personality Disorder

2:00 – 3:00	Session 5: Issues in the Assessment & Treatment of Narcissistic Personality Disorder
3:00 – 3:15	<i>Break</i>
3:15 – 4:15	Session 6: Live Supervision — Session II (Continued Case Presentations)

Target Audience

This program is designed for licensed mental health clinicians — psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, physicians, nurses, and counselors — practicing across inpatient and outpatient settings who treat patients with severe or complex personality disorders. This activity is for all levels.

Continuing Education Credit

This live, online course is approved for 6.75 CE hours.

To earn CE credit, attendees must complete all live sessions of the activity in full. No partial credit will be awarded if sessions are missed. Attendance is documented by Zoom. Upon completion of all sessions and submission of the evaluation, you will be able to print or download your CE certificate at the conclusion of the course. Upon conclusion of the activity, you will receive a handout with further instructions on how to obtain your CE Certificate online.

This professional continuing education activity was sponsored by Praxis Continuing Education and Training by New Harbinger and co-sponsored by Empathian. Praxis Continuing Education and Training by New Harbinger, who has been approved as a provider of continuing education by the organizations listed below, maintains responsibility for the educational activity offered and for following the standards and regulations for the organizations listed below.

Joint Accreditation: In support of improving patient care, Praxis Continuing Education and Training by New Harbinger is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.



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INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

IPCE: This activity was planned by and for the healthcare team, and learners will receive 6.75 Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credit for learning and change.



IPCE CREDIT™

Nursing: Praxis Continuing Education and Training by New Harbinger designates this activity for a maximum of 6.75 ANCC contact hours.

Physicians: Praxis Continuing Education and Training by New Harbinger designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Psychologists: Continuing Education (CE) credits for psychologists are provided through the co-sponsorship of the American Psychological



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Association (APA) Office of Continuing Education in Psychology (CEP). The APA CEP Office maintains responsibly for the content of the programs.

Social Workers: As a Jointly Accredited Organization, Praxis Continuing Education and Training by New Harbinger is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved under this program. Regulatory boards are the final authority on courses accepted for continuing education credit. Social workers completing this course receive 6.75 clinical continuing education credits.

NY Social Workers: Praxis Continuing Education and Training by New Harbinger is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #SW-0467

NY Counselors: Praxis Continuing Education and Training by New Harbinger is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed mental health counselors. #MHC-0198.

NY Psychologists: Praxis Continuing Education and Training by New Harbinger is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Psychology as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychologists #PSY-0002.

Disclosure Information

Praxis Continuing Education and Training is responsible for the content, quality and scientific integrity of all CE/CME activities certified for credit. When an educational activity is offered for medical (CME), Nursing (ANCC) and/or Psychology (APA) continuing education credit, participants must be informed as to the source, amount, nature, and disposition of any funding used to support the activity, whether in the form of educational grants, cash contributions, or in-kind contributions. Individuals in a position to influence course content must also disclose whether they have one or more relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies.

We define ineligible companies as those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. There is no minimum financial threshold; individuals must disclose all financial relationships, regardless of the amount, with ineligible companies. We ask that disclosures are made regardless of whether the individual views the financial relationships as relevant to the education. For more information on the Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education, please visit accme.org/standards.

All those in a position to control the content of an education activity are asked to disclose any relevant financial relationships they have with any ineligible companies.

There is no commercial support for this activity.

None of the planners or presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationship(s) to disclose with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

Program Fees: To Register and Pay Go to [Empathian.com](https://empathian.com)

Fee: \$350 per person practicing clinician

\$250 per person recent graduates (3 years or less from training)

\$100 Students (With an ID)

Course Materials

All Course materials will be provided via link **one week** before the course begins

Contact Information

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Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be received in writing at least 14 days prior to the program date. These will receive a full refund, less a \$50 administrative fee. Cancellations received within 14 to 7 days of the program start will either be refunded at 50% or registration may instead be transferred to a colleague or applied toward a future Empathian program. There are no refunds for cancellation within 3 days of the course start date. Empathian reserves the right to cancel or reschedule a program due to insufficient enrollment or unforeseen circumstances, in which case registrants will receive a full refund or the option to transfer to another offering.

Faculty

Robert E. Feinstein, MD is a board-certified psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, and Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Northwell/Zucker/Hofstra School of Medicine, with over 40 years of clinical, supervisory, and academic experience treating patients with severe personality disorders. He is founder and CEO of Empathian and has held senior academic leadership roles across Columbia University, New York Medical College, the University of Colorado, and Dell Medical School. He is the author of more than 100 publications and three Oxford University Press textbooks.

Course References

1. Feinstein, R.E (2021). Managing Patient with Personality Disorder in Medical Settings (pp. 179-212) In R. Feinstein *Personality disorders*. Oxford University Press.
2. Links, P. S. (2021). Managing risk in borderline personality disorder. *Psychiatric Clinics of North America*, 44(3), 345–356.
3. Hutsebaut, J., et al. (2020). Structured personality assessment and case formulation. *Journal of Personality Disorders*, 34(Suppl), 1–15.
4. Leichsenring, F., et al. (2023). Comparative effectiveness of psychotherapies for borderline personality disorder. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 180(5), 1–12.
5. Caligor, E., Levy, K. N., & Yeomans, F. E. (2020). Narcissistic personality disorder: Diagnostic and clinical challenges. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 177(9), 1–10.

Technology /Technical Requirements

This activity will be delivered live via Zoom. Participants need a computer or mobile device with camera, microphone, and stable internet access, and should download the Zoom app in advance (zoom.us/download). Video's on and participation is expected throughout, particularly during interactive and/or case-based segments.

Administrative Policies

- **ADA Accommodations:** Empathian is committed to ensuring equal access to its continuing education programs. Participants requiring accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact info@empathian.com at least two weeks prior to the program date so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
- **Grievance Procedure:** Participants who wish to file a grievance regarding any aspect of this program — including content, faculty, or administration — should submit their concern in writing to info@empathian.com within 30 days of the program date. Grievances will be reviewed by the Course Director, and the participant will receive a written response within two weeks of receipt.

Contact Information

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