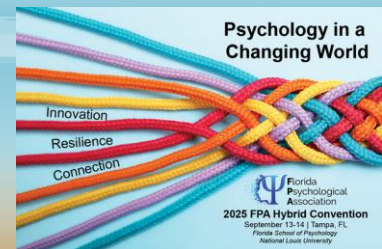


# Perspectives on Prescriptive Authority for Psychologists in Florida

FLORIDA PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
2025 FPA HYBRID CONVENTION  
SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2025  
TAMPA, FL



# Participants

- Judi Steinman, PhD
- Chris Rossilli, PSY.D, MSCP, MS, ABMP
- Julie Price, Psy.D., MSCP, RYT500
- Christine Machado-Denis, Psy.D, MSCP, ABPP
- Doris Nevin, PhD, MP
- Justin D'Arienzo, Psy.D., ABPP

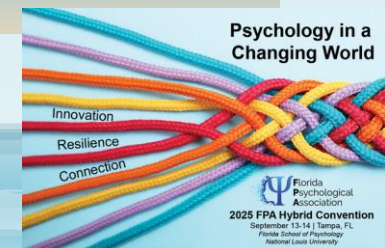


# Judi Steinman, PhD

- 2022-present CSPP-Alliant MSCP Program Adjunct Faculty Member
- 2017-2022 CSPP-Alliant MSCP Program Director
- 2022, APA Division 55 Distinguished Contribution to Pharmacotherapy at the National Level Award Recipient
- 2021, APA Division 55 Presidential Citation Recipient
- 2020-2021 APA Division 55 Past President
- 2019 APA Division 55 President
- 2018, APA Division 55 Psychopharmacology Educator of the Year Award Recipient
- Chair, APA Division 55 Legislative and Social Action Committee (LASAC)



- Chair, APA Division 55 Training Program Director Council
- Chair, RxP subcommittee Hawai'i Psychological Association
- Chair, RxP Committee Chair, Florida Psychological Association
- Vice Chair, Hawai'i Psychological Association PAC
- APA Science Liaison, Division 55
- Member, Legislative Action Committee, Hawai'i Psychological Association
- Member, APA Division 55 Diversity Council
- Member, APA Division 55 Research Council
- Editor, APA Division 55 newsletter, *The Tablet*



# Learning Objectives

1. **Recognize how Prescribing Psychologists provide safe and effective behavioral and pharmacotherapeutic care to patients of all ages.**
2. **Identify training program requirements that enable psychologists to specialize in Clinical Psychopharmacology**
3. **Identify how Prescribing Psychologists integrate medication with behavioral therapy**




# The Prescriptive Authority for Psychologists Movement

- 1985: Hawai`i introduces RxP legislation
- 2000: Division 55 founded as “American Society for the Advancement of Pharmacotherapy”
- 2002: New Mexico passed RxP legislation
- 2004: Louisiana passed RxP legislation
- 2014: Illinois passed RxP legislation
- 2016: Iowa passed RxP legislation
- 2017: Idaho passed RxP legislation
- 2020: Clinical psychopharmacology recognized as a psychological specialty by APA Council of Representatives
- 2021: Division 55 renamed to “Society for Prescribing Psychology”
- 2023: Colorado passed RxP legislation
- 2024: Utah passed RxP legislation

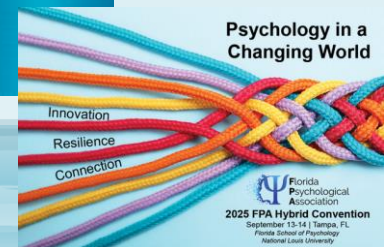






# Why every psychologist needs this training

<https://www.mit.edu/spotlight/new-way-track-dopamine/>



# Summary of recent publications on the safety and efficacy of prescribing psychologists

## • Prescribing Psychologists are Safe and Effective

- \*The rate of adverse drug events is 24% **lower** among patients treated by prescribing psychologists than among patients treated by psychiatrists.
- \*The rate of psychotropic polypharmacy (a risk factor for complications) is 20% **lower** among patients treated by treated by prescribing psychologists than among patients treated by psychiatrists.
- The rate of psychiatric emergency room visits and medication adherence is the same for patients of prescribing psychologists as for patients of psychiatrists





# Collaborators

**Phillip Hughes, PhD, MS\***  
Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and  
Policy, University of North Carolina  
Eshelman School of Pharmacy  
Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services  
Research

**Jo Velasquez, Ph.D., MSCP, BCN-Fellow\***  
Chief Operating Officer iNetMed Rx2  
Las Cruces, NM

**David Velasquez\***  
CEO, iNetMed Rx2 Inc  
Las Cruces, NM

**Jack Tsai, PhD, MSCP**  
Regional Dean and Professor  
UT Health Houston  
School of Public Health

**Judi Steinman, PhD**  
CSPP - Alliant International  
University  
[judi.steinman@yahoo.com](mailto:judi.steinman@yahoo.com)



## Study Design

- Descriptive cross-sectional study using EHR data for all patients seen at the clinic between 1/1/2017 and 12/31/2023
- Extracted data on several patient characteristics, including age at first visit, biological sex at birth, insurance type, psychiatric diagnoses, comorbid conditions, and county of residence.

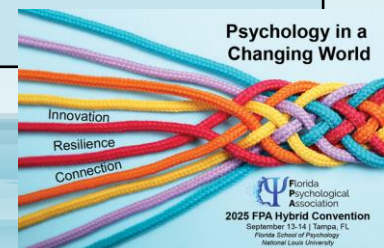
## Results: Patient Demographics

	N	%
<b>Total Patients</b>	4540	100
Male	2088	45.99
Female	2452	54.01
<b>Age (Mean, SD)</b>	33.8	22.7
<b>Insurance</b>		
• Medicaid	1520	33.48
• Private	2218	48.85
• Medicare	592	13.04
• Other	210	4.63
<b>Rurality</b>		
• Rural	4333	<b>95.4</b>
• Urban	199	4.4
• Missing	8	0.2
<b>Social Deprivation Index (Mean, SD)</b>	<b>92.1</b>	10.8

# Results

Prescribing Psychologists do not abandon their training as clinical psychologists

Services Provided	N	%
Medication Only	1968	4.74
Psychotherapy Only	10511	25.32
Combination Treatment	25815	62.18
Neuropsychological Testing	2367	5.70
Other Services	856	2.06



## ATTENTION PSYCHOLOGISTS

The American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) has approved provisional affiliation for its newest specialty board, American Board of Psychopharmacological Psychology (ABRxP).

The Founding Board members of ABRxP are working to open applications for at-large applicants by the end of 2025 or early 2026, so please stay tuned for updates and announcements and then apply

To be most up-to-date, please join Division 55 if you aren't already a member!

*\*D. Phillips (personal communication, May 18, 2025)*



Join APA Div 55  
Society for  
Prescribing  
Psychology (RxP)

55  SOCIETY FOR  
PRESCRIBING PSYCHOLOGY

**Division 55 Dues (2026)**

New Student Members \$0

Member, Associate,  
Fellow \$50

Scan QR code to learn  
more about other member  
pricing and more about  
Div 55!



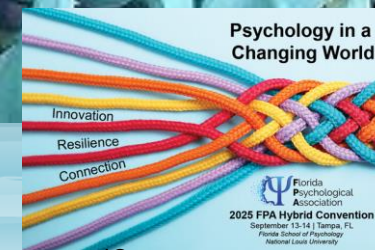
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MAHALO!

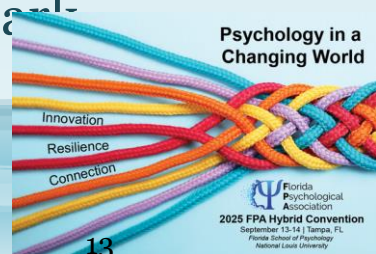


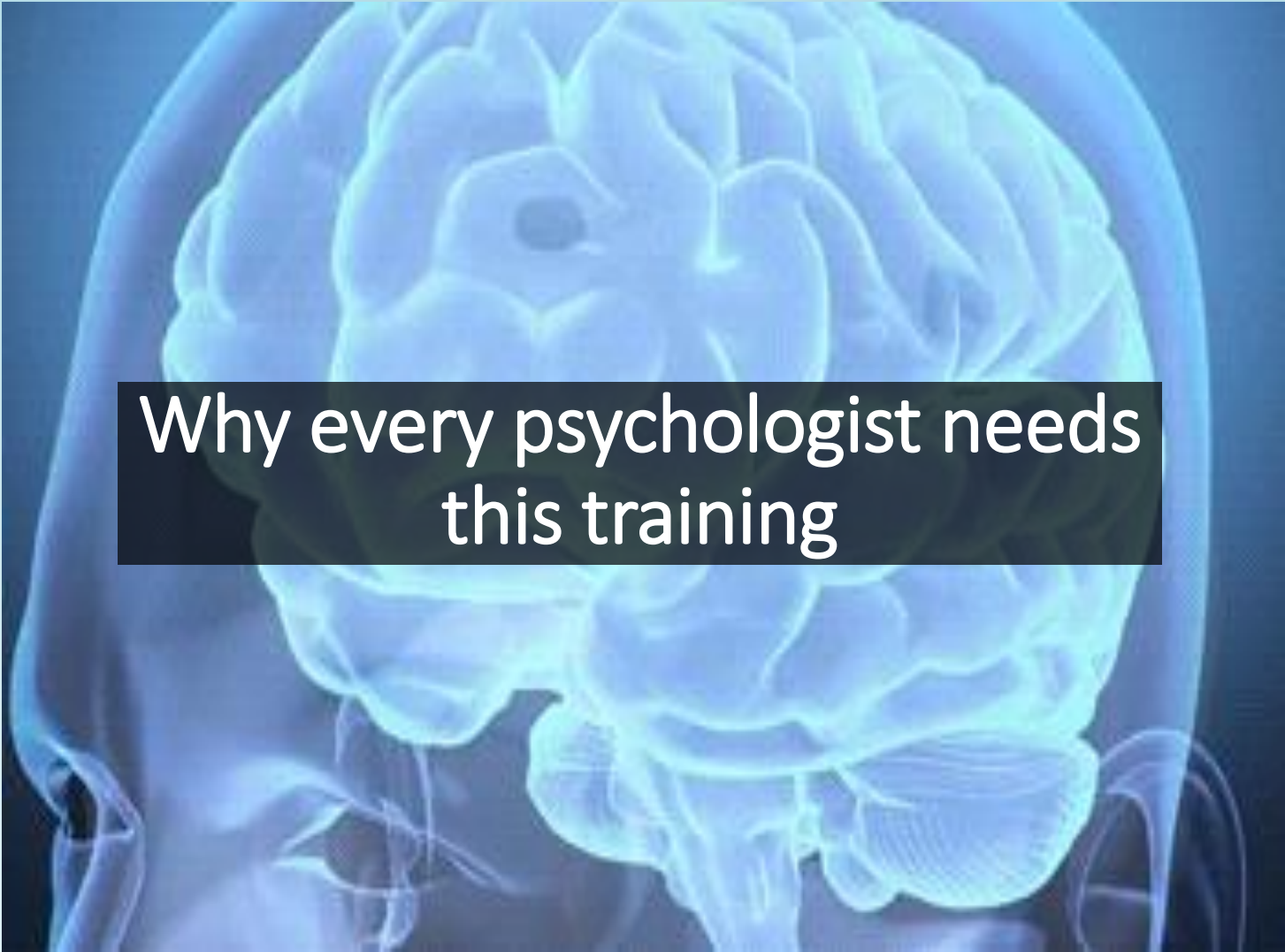


# CHRISTOPHER M. ROSSILLI

## PSY.D, MSCP, MS, ABMP

- **Board Certified Medical Psychologist**
- **Psychologist License # PY 8280**
- **Nova Southeastern University**, Ft Lauderdale, Florida Post-Doctoral Masters in Clinical Psychopharmacology (MSCP) Degree Conferment 2014
- **Carlos Albizu University**, Miami, Florida Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D) Neuropsychology Concentration Conferment 2009
- **Nova Southeastern University**, Fort Lauderdale, Florida Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling Degree Conferment 2003
- Associate Professor at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Clinical Psychopharmacology 2020-present
- **Cognitive Care**, Telehealth and Locations in Fleming Island and Orange Park, Florida



A glowing blue brain is shown inside a translucent blue silhouette of a human head. The brain is highly detailed, showing the gyri and sulci of the cerebral cortex. A dark, circular spot is visible on the upper left side of the brain. The entire image has a blue color scheme.

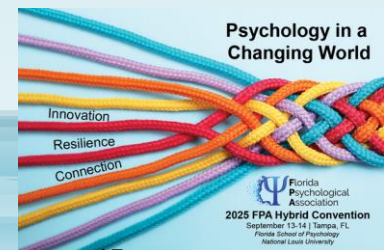
Why every psychologist needs  
this training

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/ad/bf/48/adbf48234cb7565b9a8cfd6cdbd93989.gif>

# Clinical Psychopharmacology Training Opportunities

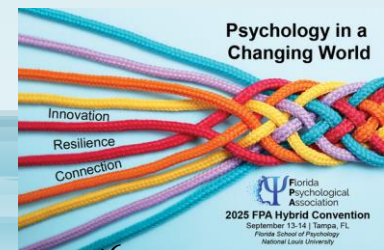
- **Six APA Designated Programs**
- California School of Professional Psychology - Alliant International University
  - San Diego, CA
- New Mexico State University
  - Las Cruces, NM
- Fairleigh Dickinson University
  - Teaneck, NJ
- The Chicago School of Professional Psychology
  - Chicago, IL
- Idaho State University
  - Meridian, ID
- Drake University
  - Des Moines, IA

New MSCP Program  
University of Colorado  
Began 2024



# Clinical Psychopharmacology (Postdoctoral MS) Core Classes:

- Clinical Biochemistry
  - Physical Assessment
  - Neurochemistry
  - Neuroanatomy
  - Neuropathology
  - Pharmacotherapeutics
  - Clinical Pharmacology
  - Clinical Medicine
  - Special Populations
  - Advanced Psychopharmacology
- Each program provides these courses differently
  - For APA Designation, each program must demonstrate how domain topics are covered in individual courses
  - Most programs require at least 30 units



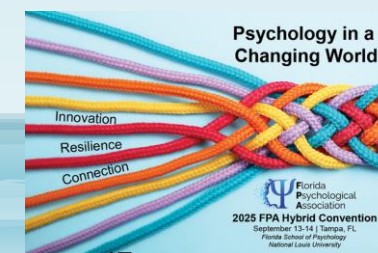




Julie R. Price, Psy.D.,  
MSCP, RYT500

Department of Defense  
AFSOC POTFF  
Psychological Domain Lead  
492 SOW/IRON

Treasurer, Division 55



# Journey to MSCP & RxP

- PsyD Clinical Health Psychology, 2012
- Started MSCP at NSU
- Assistant Professor Vanderbilt School of Medicine
- Director of Behavioral Medicine at Osher Center for Integrative Medicine
- MSCP, 2016 Fairleigh Dickinson University
- DOD, Eglin AFB Hospital, Division of Pain Medicine
- Assistant Professor Uniform Services University of Health Sciences
- Clinical Director, Chronic Pain Functional Restoration Program (FRP)
- E-RYT, Experienced Registered Yoga Therapist, 2019
- DOD, Air Force Special Operations Command, Preservation of The Force and Family 492 SOW IRON (Integrated Resiliency Optimization Network)
  - Human Performance Program

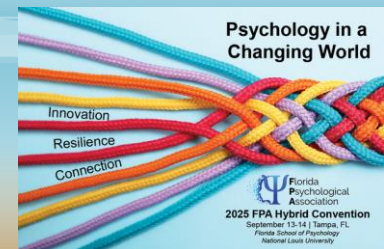
# Why is MSCP training so Important

- Competently communicate with Physician colleagues
- Accurately provide differential diagnosis
- Spend time in discussion with patient about medications, SE, etc .....
- Most Important ACCESS TO CARE!
- Each Base - MH clinics
  - 1 Psychiatrist & 1 NP
  - Deployed, Budget Cuts
- 3-4 Psychiatrist in Okaloosa County
  - 1 Child/Adolescent, 2 not taking new patients
- PC/NPs
- Case



# Christine Machado-Denis, Psy.D, MSCP, ABPP

BOARD CERTIFIED HEALTH PSYCHOLOGIST  
DIRECTOR, TRANSPLANT PSYCHOLOGY  
TAMPA GENERAL HOSPITAL TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE





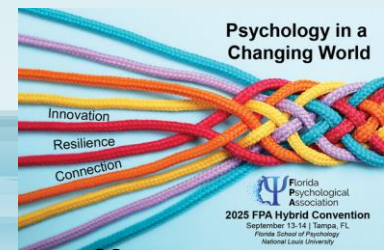
# Relationship to RxP

- Chair, Research Council- Division 55 Society for Prescribing Psychology
- Completed the MSCP in 2022 at Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Clinical population: End organ diseases, alcohol-related liver disease and liver transplant recipients



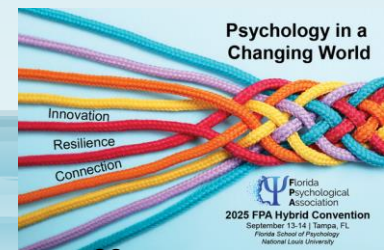
# Benefits of MSCP Training

- Aid non-psychiatrist physicians in making medication recommendations
- Increases multidisciplinary collaboration
- Assist psychiatry and non-psychiatry providers in monitoring adverse effects
- Enhance biological understanding in the context of biopsychosocial framework
- Increase expertise and patient trust



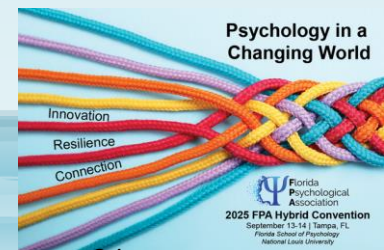
# Application of MSCP Training

- Deprescribing is key in liver transplant and substance use
- Many patients with cirrhosis of the liver complain of sleep problems and may be using medications such as zolpidem or alprazolam to manage sleep.
  - This population is at increased risk of confusion from hepatic encephalopathy.
  - Deprescribing is key to avoid exacerbations of liver disease and hospital readmission, falls, worsening memory problems, delirium or worsening liver disease exacerbation.



# Application of MSCP Training

- Patients with alcohol use disorder benefit from medications for AUD. Assist hepatologists and pharmacists to ensure that patients also have access to pharmacotherapy such as naltrexone and acamprosate that are known to be effective in combination with CBT to reduce alcohol relapse after liver transplant.

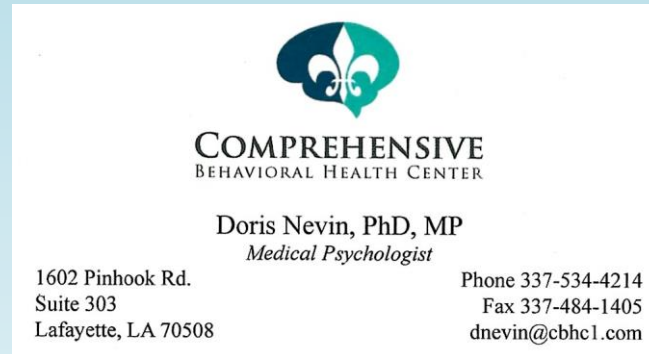




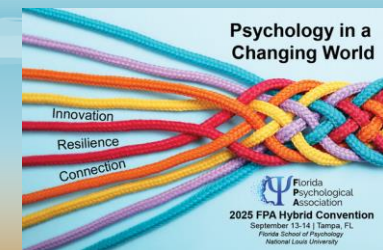
Doris E. Nevin, PhD, MP, LLC

Prescribing/Medical Psychologist

Ball State University – PhD  
Fairleigh Dickinson University -  
MSCP



I live in Bradenton, FL and Lafayette, LA  
My practices are located in Lafayette, LA and Roswell, NM



Why:

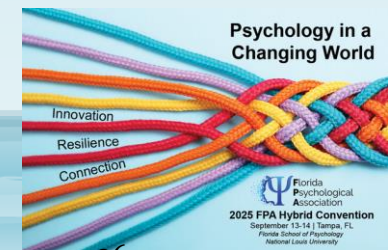
Vast need for mental health services

Specialized skill set

Whom do I serve:

Louisiana – Independent prescriber within a private practice,  
multiple mental health providers, Associated ABA program

- Ages 6-75
- Payment – cash/commercial insurance/workers' comp
- Diagnoses – Autism, ADHD, Anxiety, Bipolar Disorder, Depression, Intellectual Disability, Med Psych, OCD, PTSD, Sex Offenders, TBI
- White, Black, Acadian, Hispanic, “Most Catholic City in America”



Whom do I serve, continued:

New Mexico – Independent practice Telehealth based

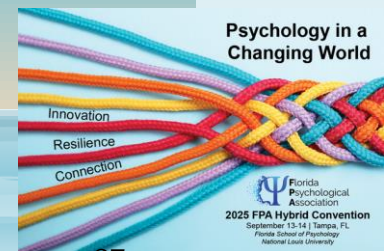
- Ages 17-99
- Payment – Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, commercial insurance
- Medical staff – Rehabilitation Hospital of Southern New Mexico, Acute Care Hospital of Southern New Mexico, Adult Teen Challenge Consultant – Men's Program and Women's Program
- Hispanic, White, Native American/First Nation
- Diagnoses – Anxiety, Bipolar Disorder, Depression, Dementia, Delirium/Encephalopathy, Dual/Triple Diagnoses, Impulse Control Disorder, Schizophrenia, SUDs, Sex Offenders

Services Provision:

Full-Time NM – 2018-2022 3000-3600 visits per year

Part-time 2024-2025

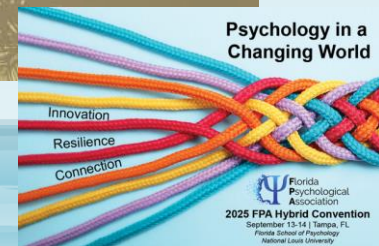
- LA – 524 visits to 85 patients
- NM – 442 visits to 192 patients



# Justin A. D'Arienzo, Psy.D., ABPP

## The Student Perspective Professional Education:

- Post-Doctoral Master of Science Program in Clinical Psychopharmacology, Fairleigh Dickinson University (In progress: January 2024 - December 2025)
- Pensacola Naval Hospital, Pensacola, FL
- Clinical Psychology Residency, 2004-2006
- Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
- Clinical Psychology Residency, 2005
- Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Portsmouth, VA
- Clinical Psychology Internship, 2003-2004
- Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Doctor of Psychology, Clinical Psychology, 2004
- Master of Science, Clinical Psychology, 2001





# How MSCP Training Changed My Approach to Patients

- Recognize comorbidities
- Answer patient questions
- Collaborate with primary care physician
- Communicate more effectively with medical professionals
- Address adverse events, contraindications and drug-drug interactions
- Improve access to mental health care in rural areas, with special patient populations



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4. Hughes, P.M., Velasquez, J., Velasquez, D., Tsai, J., Garcia, A., Steinman, J. (2025). Patient and clinic characteristics of a prescribing psychology practice in New Mexico, *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 36 (3), 915-928. DOI: 10.1353/hpu.2025.a967339
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Any questions?

