

Psychiatry Grand Rounds WCM Department of Psychiatry Psychology CE Announcement



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**
Psychiatry

CLINICAL STRATEGIES FOR BEHAVIORAL EMERGENCIES: THE BERT MODEL

LISA SOMBROTTO, MD

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NEWYORK -
PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL

Hybrid: Uris Auditorium

Zoom:

<https://weillcornell.zoom.us/j/92812036154>

Meeting ID: 928 1203 6154

Password: 12345

1 CE credit available to WCM Department of Psychiatry full time and voluntary faculty Psychologists, Social Workers and LMHCs, who sign in with their full name, attend the majority of the lecture and complete a survey which will be emailed following the completion of the lecture. Note the survey must be completed within 30 days of the lecture. Please contact

wcmpsychiatryce@med.cornell.edu for additional CE information



March 18, 2026



11 AM - 12 PM



Live Online, Live In-Person

ABSTRACT

I will be discussing the purpose, core components and scope of the BERT team as implemented at WCMC and other NYP campuses. I will use brief clinical scenarios to illustrate the common clinical, environmental, and systemic triggers that lead to behavioral emergencies and the interventions. I will speak to how BERT fits into the wider universe of hospital safety measures.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the purpose, structure, and scope of the Behavioral Emergency Response Team (BERT).
2. Identify common clinical scenarios that prompt BERT activation and discuss the underlying contributing factors.
3. Discuss key lessons learned from the implementation of the BERT program and their implications for clinical practice.

SPEAKER

Dr. Lisa B. Sombrotto, MD, is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medicine and a psychiatrist at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. She completed her psychiatry residency at the Payne Whitney Clinic of Weill Cornell Medical College and went on to complete a fellowship in psychopharmacology focusing on mood and anxiety disorders at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Westchester Division. Sombrotto has held numerous clinical leadership roles throughout her career, including serving as Director of General Psychiatry Services and Vice Chair and Clinical Director of Psychiatric Emergency Services at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Her work has focused on psychiatric emergency care, clinical quality improvement, and the treatment of mood and anxiety disorders.

REFERENCES

1. Rajwani, A., Clark, N., & Montalvo, C. (2022). Understanding best practices in implementation of behavioral emergency response teams through a scoping review. *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association*, 29(5), 375-388. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10783903221114335>
2. Parker, C. B., Calhoun, A., Wong, A. H., Davidson, L., & Dike, C. (2020). A call for behavioral emergency response teams in inpatient hospital settings. *The AMA Journal of Ethics*, 22(11), E956-964. <https://doi.org/10.1001/amajethics.2020.956>
3. Martorana, J. A., Griffith, D. M., Eiger, C., Maurer, J. J., Burnside, A., Janssen, A. C., Pergjika, A., & Hoffmann, J. A. (2025). Reducing Employee Injuries from Aggressive Patient Behavior at Children's Hospital by Implementing a Behavioral Response Team. *Pediatric Quality and Safety*, 10(1), e790. <https://doi.org/10.1097/pq9.0000000000000790>

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