This study is aimed at reviewing reviewed overseas and Japanese domestic literatures on familythe experiences inof families caring a person for persons with a severe mental illness, and aimed to identify common stages of such processes. By doing database research the caring process. Through searching databases, we identified the articles published after 1995 by overseas and Japanese researchers that were published after 1995 and mentioning the process of family reported the experiences inof families caring for a family member of family who has with depression, schizophrenia, and maniacor manic depression. We could identify identified 31 research articles, consisting of 26 reports from overseas and 5 from Japanese Japan. Based on fifteen articles written about 15 overseas reports about general family experiences, we identified the following 10 common stages of the caring process-were confirmed to becommon, as follows: awareness of the problem, feeling of inadequacy and inability and consumed, approach of approaching the crisis, diagnosis of diagnosing the illness, feeling dissatisfied with healthcare professionals, emotional negativeness, feeling ofnegativity, experiencing distress, unstable instability of the patient's condition, stabilization of the patient's condition, holding and development of hope. In conclusion, these commonly-identified common stages that we identified may also partly beappliedapply to families domestically, however, in Japan, but more nation-wideresearches are nationwide research is needed that are onto understand the process of

general family experiences of such families.

