Psychiatry: Core EPA #6

Applying relevant legislation and legal principles to clinical practice

Key Features:

- This EPA focuses on activities that require clinicians to apply mental health legislation and ensure a legally defensible approach in evaluation, diagnosis, and communication.
- Examples include the following: capacity to consent to treatment, fitness to stand trial, financial capacity, testamentary capacity, capacity with respect to long-term care, restrictions/limitations relevant to disability, disclosure of information, need for mandatory or discretionary reporting (driving, child protection services), initiating involuntary treatment or hospitalization.
- It is recommended that EPA observations should be planned collaboratively before or at the time of the activity.

Assessment plan:

Direct and indirect observation by psychiatrist, TTP psychiatry resident, or psychiatry subspecialty resident

Use form 1. Form collects information on:

- Case type: capacity to consent to treatment; capacity with respect to long-term care; disclosure of information; fitness to stand trial; financial capacity; initiating involuntary treatment or hospitalization; need for mandatory or discretionary reporting; restrictions/limitations relevant to disability; testamentary capacity; other issue
- Setting: emergency; inpatient; outpatient; simulation; other
- Observer: psychiatrist; TTP psychiatry resident; psychiatry subspecialty resident

Collect 6 observations of achievement

- At least 2 capacity to consent to treatment cases
- At least 2 initiating involuntary treatment and/or hospitalization
- At least 1 evaluation for restrictions/limitations relevant to disability
- At least 1 need for mandatory or discretionary reporting
- At least 4 direct observations of assessment
- At least 2 different observers
- At least 4 by psychiatrists

CanMEDS Milestones:

1. **ME 1.3 Apply knowledge of legal principles and mental health legislation relevant to psychiatric practice**
2. **ME 3.2 Obtain and document informed consent**
3. **ME 2.2 Assess a patient's decision-making capacity**

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4 **COM 1.6 Tailor approaches to decision-making to patient capacity, values, and preferences**
5 **COM 5.1 Document clinical encounters in an accurate, complete, timely, and accessible manner, and in compliance with legal and privacy requirements**
6 **P 3.1 Adhere to requirements for mandatory and discretionary reporting**
7 **P 3.1 Fulfil and adhere to the professional and ethical codes, standards of practice, and laws governing practice**
8 **COL 1.2 Communicate with other professionals in the health care, education, and criminal justice and legal systems**

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