FOUNDATIONS OF DISCIPLINE #5: EVALUATE THE MEDICAL STABILITY OF A PATIENT WITH A MENTAL HEALTH CONCERN

Short Description:
Be aware of, and take steps to manage, important medical co-morbidities in an inpatient or emergency room setting.

Assessment Plan Summary:
● In ER, on Unit, standardized cases or simulation

Milestones:

Collaborate with health care providers for consultation requests
1. Obtain medical history from referral source
2. Review physical findings including vital signs
3. Recognize urgent and emergent medical issues

Assess medical contributors to psychiatric presentations
1. Recognize psychiatric symptoms manifesting from medical illnesses
2. Refer to medical and/or surgical specialty services when indicated

Recognize toxidromes or acute medical illnesses in the psychiatric emergency environment
1. Use toxicology screening tests and other investigations to ascertain medical causes of illness
2. Recognize patient’s risk of acute medical deterioration
3. Utilize CIWA protocol appropriately
4. Recognize and differentiate states of intoxication and withdrawal

Understand the principles of psychopharmacology in the medically compromised
1. Understand the use of psychotropic medications in patients with prolonged QTc
2. Understand the use of psychotropic medications in patients with renal or hepatic impairment
3. Understand the use of psychotropic medications in patients with metabolic co-morbidities

Scope: Patient in the ER or inpatient setting