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 comorbidities.

Assessment Options:
- Direct observation
- Indirect observation
- Simulation

Scope:
- Any patient in a clinical or educational setting

Possible Clinical Settings:
- Inpatient Unit
- Emergency Room
- C/L

Milestones:

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

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

Recognize toxidromes or acute medical illnesses
- Use toxicology screening tests and other investigations to ascertain medical causes of illness
- Recognize patient’s risk of acute medical deterioration
- If applicable, utilize appropriate withdrawal protocols (e.g. CIWA, COWS)
- Recognize and differentiate states of intoxication and withdrawal

Demonstrate awareness of common medically compromised populations and medication considerations
Possible scenarios include:
- Understand the use of psychotropic medications in patients with prolonged QTc
• Understand the use of psychotropic medications in patients with renal or hepatic impairment
• Understand the use of psychotropic medications in patients with metabolic comorbidities