CORE OF DISCIPLINE #1: PERFORM A PSYCHIATRIC ASSESSMENT FOR A PATIENT PRESENTING WITH COMPLEX MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Short Description:
The learner should be able to perform a psychiatric assessment for a patient of higher complexity, where there is a high burden of symptoms and significant comorbidity. For example, a patient who has mood/anxiety/psychosis AND substance use/ eating disorder/ personality disorder/ intellectual disability/ neurocognitive disorder/ medical complexity. The learner should be able to provide a pertinent differential diagnosis, as well as highlight the most likely diagnosis (or diagnoses), which can inform their management plan.

Assessment Options:
- Direct observation
- Mock STACER
- STACER

Scope:
- Any patient in a clinical or educational setting

Possible Clinical Settings:
- Any psychiatry rotation

Milestones:

COD1M1: Establishes and maintains rapport and effective therapeutic alliance
- Communicates with empathic non-judgemental responsiveness to patient
- Uses multiplicity of validation techniques to build rapport (is interested, accurate reflection, validates unverbalized behaviour/feeling, links behaviour/feeling to person’s past history, normalizes behaviour/feeling)
- For example, uses “here and now” techniques to deepen the alliance

COD1M2: History gathering is appropriately comprehensive to establish a pertinent differential diagnosis, most likely diagnosis (or diagnoses) and to inform a management plan
- Is aware of differential and appropriately screens for comorbidities
- Gathers information about symptoms appropriately, given potential interplay between comorbidities
- Is able to be comprehensive with a multiplicity of symptoms, even if time is limited
- Gathers an appropriate history regarding risk (self and others)

COD1M3: Adjusts interview content and style to the patient’s presentation
- Adapts the interview based on patient’s acuity, level of distress and cognitive abilities
• Adapts language to patient

COD1M4: As indicated, integrates collateral information, medical investigations and other data needed to construct a comprehensive formulation