Psychiatry: Foundations EPA #4

Performing risk assessments that inform the development of an acute safety plan for patients posing risk for harm to self or others

Key Features:
- The focus of this EPA is the appropriate assessment of risk and safety issues.
- This EPA includes developing an acute safety management plan. This may include focusing on risk factors for suicide, self-harm, and violence towards others in the assessment.
- This EPA involves consideration of mental health law and its application to patients at risk of harm to self or others.

Assessment Plan:

Direct observation by psychiatrist/subspecialty psychiatrist, TTP psychiatry resident, Core/TTP psychiatry subspecialty resident or psychiatry/psychiatry subspecialty fellow

Use Form 1. Form collects information on:
- Patient history: non-suicidal self-injury; history of violence or forensic involvement; active suicidal ideation or behaviour; active homicidal/violent ideation or violent behaviour; other issue
- Setting: emergency; inpatient unit; outpatient
- Demographic: child; adolescent; adult; older adult

Collect 5 observations of achievement
- At least 1 patient with non-suicidal self-injury
- At least 1 patient with active suicidal ideation or behavior
- At least 1 patient with active homicidal/violent ideation or violent behaviour
- No more than 1 child or adolescent patient
- No more than 1 older adult patient
- At least 3 by psychiatrists
- At least 3 different observers

Relevant Milestones:

1  COM 2.2 Manage the flow of challenging patient encounters
2  COM 1.1 Recognize and manage one’s own reaction to patients
3  COM 2.1 Collect collateral information that informs diagnosis and management plan
4  ME 2.2 Assess risk factors for violence, suicide, and self-harm, including modifiable and non-modifiable factors
5 ME 3.2 Describe the indications, contraindications, risks, and alternatives for a given treatment plan
6 ME 2.4 Develop and implement an acute safety management plan
7 L 2.1 Consider appropriate use of resources when developing treatment plans
8 ME 5.2 Apply crisis intervention skills, including development of a safety plan, as appropriate
9 P 3.1 Apply knowledge of the relevant codes, policies, standards, and laws governing physicians and the profession, including relevant mental health legislation
10 COL 3.1 Identify patients requiring handover to other physicians or health care professionals
11 COL 3.2 Provide a clinically relevant summary to the receiving physician or care team