



Achieving New Heights in Medical Education

Psychiatry Required Clerkship Curriculum

Revised March 2024

Faculty

Dr. Spencer Hansen, MD, Clerkship Director

In order to make an appointment or to contact someone with an urgent clerkship issue, please email clerkshipdirectorshelpline@rvu.edu

Required Texts/Materials:

1. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, Text Revision (DSM-5-TR)*
2. Ebert, M. H., Leckman, J. F. & Petrakis, I. (2019). *Current diagnosis & treatment: Psychiatry (3rd ed.)*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.
3. Ganti, L., Kaufman, M. S. & Blitzstein, S. M. (2018). *First aid for psychiatry clerkship (5th ed.)*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.
4. Sadock, B. J., Sadock, V. A. & Ruiz, P. (2023). *Kaplan & Sadock's study guide and self-examination review of psychiatry (10th ed.)*. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

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Introduction

This course guide is designed to assist the student in the Psychiatry Required Clerkship by providing specific, actionable objectives. Students are expected to develop a self-study plan and learn the contents outlined in the course syllabus. The student should maximize all available resources and be able to perform the following objectives at the end of the externship.

H&P and the Mental Status Examination

1. Elicit and clearly record a complete psychiatric history, including the identifying data, chief complaint, history of the present illness, past psychiatric history; medications (psychiatric and nonpsychiatric), general medical history, review of systems, substance abuse history, family history, and personal and social history
2. Recognize the importance of, and be able to obtain and evaluate, historical data from multiple sources (family members, community mental health resources, old records, etc.)
3. Discuss the effect of developmental issues on the assessment of patients
4. Elicit, describe, and record the components of the mental status examination, including general appearance and behavior, motor activity speech, affect, mood, thought processes, thought content, perception, sensorium and cognition (e.g., state of consciousness, orientation, registration, recent and remote memory), judgment, and insight
5. Use appropriate terms associated with the mental status examination
6. Within the mental status exam, list common abnormalities and their common causes
7. Make a clear and concise case presentation
8. Assess and record mental status changes, and alter hypotheses and management in response to these changes
9. Recognize physical signs and symptoms that accompany classic psychiatric disorders
10. Appreciate the implications of the high rates of general medical illness in psychiatric patients, and state reasons why it is important to diagnose and treat these illnesses;

11. Assess for the presence of general medical illness in psychiatric patients, and determine the extent to which a general medical illness contributes to a patient's psychiatric problem
12. Recognize and identify the effects of psychotropic medication in the physical examination.

Diagnosis, Classification, and Treatment Planning

1. Discuss the advantages and limitations of using a diagnostic system like the DSM-IV
2. Use the DSM-IV in identifying specific signs and symptoms that compose a syndrome or disorder;
3. Use the five axes of the DSM-IV in evaluating patients
4. Formulate a differential diagnosis and plan for each patient
5. Discuss the prevalence and barriers to recognition of psychiatric illnesses in general medical settings, including variations in presentation.

Interviewing Skills

1. Explain the value of skillful interviewing for patient and doctor satisfaction and for obtaining optimal clinical outcomes;
2. Demonstrate respect, empathy, responsiveness, and concern regardless of the patient's problems or personal characteristics;
3. Identify his or her emotional responses to patients;
4. Identify strengths and weaknesses in his or her interviewing skills;
5. Discuss the prior perceptions (Objectives 3 and 4) with a colleague or supervisor to improve interviewing skill;
6. Identify verbal and nonverbal expressions of affect in a patient's responses, and apply this information in assessing and treating the patient;
7. State and use basic strategies for interviewing disorganized, cognitively impaired, hostile/resistant, mistrustful, circumstantial/hyperverbal, unspontaneous/hypoverbal and potentially assaultive patients;

Demonstrate the following interviewing skills: appropriate initiation of the interview; establishing rapport; the appropriate use of open-ended and closed questions; techniques for asking "difficult" questions; the appropriate use of facilitation, empathy, clarification, confrontation, reassurance, silence, summary statements; soliciting and acknowledging expression of the patient's ideas, concerns, questions, and feelings about the illness and its treatment; communicating information to patients in a clear fashion; appropriate closure of the interview;

8. State and avoid the following common mistakes in interviewing technique: interrupting the patient unnecessarily; asking long, complex questions; using jargon; asking questions in a manner suggesting the desired answer; asking questions in an interrogatory manner; ignoring patient verbal or nonverbal cues; making sudden inappropriate changes in topic; indicating patronizing or judgmental attitudes by verbal or nonverbal cues (e.g., calling an adult patient by his or her first name, questioning in an oversimplified manner, etc.); incomplete questioning about important topics; and

9. Demonstrate sensitivity to student-patient similarities and differences in gender, ethnic background, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, educational level, political views, and personality traits.

Diagnostic Testing

1. State the indications for, and limitations of, the tests that are used to evaluate the neurophysiologic functioning of persons with neuropsychiatric symptoms (e.g., thyroid function tests, electroencephalogram, rapid plasmin reagin test, dexamethasone suppression test, toxicologies, testing for the human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]);
2. Discuss the use of, and indications for, neuroimaging in psychiatry;
3. summarize the similarities and differences between neuropsychological and other psychological testing, and state indications for each;
4. List the psychiatric medications that require blood level monitoring and discuss the indications for blood level monitoring for these medications; and
5. State the electroencephalogram correlates of neuropsychiatric disorders.

Collaboration

1. Participate as a member of a multidisciplinary patient care team
2. Summarize the special skills of a psychiatric nurse, psychologist, psychiatric social worker, and physician assistant
3. Demonstrate respect for, and appreciation of, the contributions of others participating in patient care
4. Participate in a family meeting with other members of the treatment team
5. Participate in discharge planning and referral of a patient to an ambulatory setting or to another inpatient facility
6. Request a consultation, in writing or by phone, from a practitioner of another specialty
7. Work collaboratively in the care of a patient with non-psychiatric physicians and health care teams from other specialties

Attitudes, Perspectives, and Personal Development

1. Summarize his or her strengths and weaknesses in interviewing skills, assessment, and management of persons with psychiatric disorders
2. Demonstrate respect and empathy for patients, colleagues, and supervisors
3. Request consultation and supervision when knowledge, attitudes, or skills are insufficient for a given patient's care
4. Perform clinical tasks (including soliciting assistance) under the pressure of difficult situations
5. Demonstrate comfort, concern, and responsibility in the care of psychiatrically ill persons;
6. Refute myths about psychiatric illness, psychiatric patients, psychiatric treatments, and mental health practitioners
7. Comment on the value of prompt and enthusiastic response to requests for consultation
8. Discuss a patient incorporating multiple perspectives (i.e., biological, psychological, developmental, and social)

Psychiatric Emergencies

1. Identify the clinical and demographic factors associated with a statistically increased risk of suicide in general and clinical populations
2. Develop a differential diagnosis, conduct a clinical assessment, and recommend management for a patient exhibiting suicidal thoughts or behavior;
3. Recognize the clinical findings that might suggest a general medical cause for neuropsychiatric symptoms, such as hallucinations, delusions, confusion, altered consciousness, and violent behavior;
4. Discuss the clinical features, differential diagnosis, and evaluation of delirium, including emergent conditions
5. Recognize the typical signs and symptoms of common psychopharmacologic emergencies (e.g., lithium toxicity, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, anticholinergic delirium, monoamine oxidase inhibitor-related hypertensive crisis) and discuss treatment strategies
6. Recognize signs and symptoms of potential assaultiveness
7. Develop a differential diagnosis, conduct a clinical assessment, and state the principles of management of a person with potential or active violent behavior
8. Discuss classes, indications, and associated risks of medications used for management of acutely psychotic, agitated, and combative patients
9. Discuss the nonpharmacologic components of management of acute psychosis, agitation, and combativeness
10. Identify the indications, precautions, and proper use of restraints
11. State the prevalence, morbidity, mortality, and risk factors associated with adult domestic violence in clinical and nonclinical populations
12. Discuss the physician's role in screening, diagnosing, managing, documenting, reporting, and referring victims of child abuse, adult domestic violence, and elder abuse
13. List the psychiatric problems that are frequently seen in battered women and child abuse victims
14. Outline the emergency management of a rape victim
15. Discuss the indications for psychiatric hospitalization, including the presenting problem and its acuity, risk of danger to patient or others, community resources, and family support
16. Identify the problems associated with the use of the terms "medical clearance" and "psychiatric clearance"
17. Discuss the clinical and administrative aspects of the transfer of a patient to another facility
18. Summarize the process of admission to a psychiatric hospital, specifically a) the implications of voluntary vs. involuntary commitment status, b) the principles of civil commitment, and c) the process of obtaining a voluntary or involuntary commitment and the role of the physician in obtaining it.

Community and Forensic Psychiatry

1. Define the term catchment area
2. List the psychiatric services each community mental health center must provide
3. Define deinstitutionalization and discuss its effects on patients and on the community

4. Discuss the process of admission to a psychiatric hospital, specifically a) the implications of voluntary vs. involuntary commitment status; b) the principles of civil commitment; and c) the process for obtaining a voluntary or involuntary commitment and a physician's role in obtaining it
5. Summarize the elements of informed consent, determination of capacities (e.g., to consent to treatment, to manage funds), and the role of judicial or administrative orders for treatment
6. Discuss the duty to warn
7. Define the right to treatment and the right to refuse treatment
8. Discuss when and how a physician must protect the safety of a child or an elderly person who may be the victim of physical or sexual abuse or neglect
9. Discuss the economic impact of chronic mental illness on patients and their families, including the effect of discriminatory insurance coverage
10. Discuss the financial and psychosocial burden of chronic mental illness to family members

Objectives of Common Psychiatric Disorders

Delirium, Dementia, Amnestic and Other Cognitive Disorders

1. Recognize the cognitive, psychological, and behavioral manifestations of brain disease of known etiology, anatomy, or pathophysiology
2. Compare, contrast, and give examples of the following: delirium, dementia (including treatable dementia), dementia syndrome of depression (pseudodementia), cortical dementia, and subcortical dementia
3. Discuss the clinical features, differential diagnosis, and evaluation of delirium, including emergent conditions
4. State the prevalence of delirium in hospitalized elderly patients
5. Discuss the behavioral and pharmacologic treatments of delirious patients
6. Discuss the epidemiology, differential diagnosis, clinical features, and course of Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, substance-induced persisting dementia, Parkinson's disease, and HIV encephalopathy
7. List the treatable causes of dementia and summarize their clinical manifestations
8. Summarize the medical evaluation and clinical management of a patient with dementia
9. Discuss the diagnosis, differential diagnosis, and treatment of amnestic disorder that is due to general medical conditions (e.g., head trauma) and substance-induced conditions (e.g., Korsakoff's syndrome that is due to thiamine deficiency)
10. Employ a cognitive screening evaluation to assess and follow patients with cognitive impairment, and state the limitations of these instruments
11. State the neuropsychiatric manifestations of HW-related illnesses
12. State the neuropsychiatric manifestations of seizure disorders, strokes, and head injuries

Substance-Related Disorders

1. Obtain a thorough history of a patient's substance use through empathic, nonjudgmental and systematic interviewing
2. List and compare the characteristic clinical features (including denial) of substance abuse and dependence

3. Discuss the epidemiology (including the effects of gender), clinical features, patterns of usage, course of illness, and treatment of substance use disorders (including anabolic steroids)
4. Identify typical presentations of substance abuse in general medical practice
5. List the psychiatric disorders that share significant comorbidity with substance-related disorders and discuss some criteria for determining whether the comorbid disorder should be treated independently
6. Discuss the role of the family, support groups, and rehabilitation programs in the recovery of patients with substance use disorders
7. List the questions that compose the CAGF (test for alcoholism) questionnaire and discuss its use as a screening instrument
8. Discuss the genetic, neurobiological, and psychosocial explanations of the etiology of alcoholism
9. List the psychiatric and psychosocial complications of alcoholism
10. Know the clinical features and treatments of intoxication with, and withdrawal from: cocaine, amphetamines, hallucinogens, cannabis, phencyclidine, barbiturates, opiates, caffeine, nicotine, benzodiazepines, and alcohol
11. State guidelines for prescribing benzodiazepines

Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders

1. Define the term psychosis
2. Develop a differential diagnosis for a person presenting with psychosis, including identifying historical and clinical features that assist in the differentiation of general medical, substance induced, affective, schizophrenic, and other causes
3. State the neurobiologic, genetic, and environmental theories of etiology and pathophysiology of schizophrenia
4. Summarize the epidemiology, clinical features, course, and complications of schizophrenia
5. Name the clinical features of schizophrenia that are associated with good and poor outcome, and explain the significance of negative symptoms
6. Summarize the treatment of schizophrenia, including both pharmacologic and psychosocial interventions
7. List the features that differentiate delusional disorder, schizophreniform disorder, schizoaffective disorder, and brief psychotic disorder from each other and from schizophrenia

Mood Disorders

1. Discuss evidence for neurobiological, genetic, psychological, and environmental etiologies of mood disorders
2. State the epidemiologic features, prevalence rates, and lifetime risks of mood disorders in clinical and nonclinical populations
3. Compare and contrast the epidemiologic and clinical features of unipolar depression and bipolar disorders
4. State the common signs and symptoms, differential diagnosis (including general medical and substance-induced disorders), course of illness, comorbidity, prognosis, and complications of mood disorders

5. Contrast normal mood variations, states of demoralization, and bereavement with the pathological mood changes that constitute depressive illness
6. Identify the difference in the presentation, treatment, and prognosis of major depression with and without melancholic features, psychotic features, atypical features, catatonic features, seasonal pattern, and postpartum onset
7. Compare and contrast the clinical presentations of mood disorders in children, adults, and the elderly
8. Describe some common presentations of depressive disorders in nonpsychiatric settings, define the term "masked depression," and develop an approach to evaluating and treating mood disorders in a general medical practice
9. Discuss the increased prevalence of major depression in patients with general medical-surgical illness (e.g., myocardial infarction, diabetes, cardiovascular or cerebrovascular accidents, hip fractures) and the impact of depression on morbidity and mortality from their illnesses
10. Discuss the identification and management of suicide risk in general medical settings;
11. Outline the recommended acute and maintenance treatments for dysthymia, major depression, and bipolar disorders (manic and depressive phases)
12. State the characteristics and techniques of the nonpharmacological treatments for depression, including psychotherapy, cognitive therapy, couples therapy, and phototherapy

Anxiety Disorders

1. Summarize neurobiological, psychological, environmental, and genetic etiologic hypotheses for the anxiety disorders
2. Discuss the epidemiology, clinical features, course, and psychiatric comorbidity of panic disorder, agoraphobia, social phobia, specific phobias, generalized anxiety disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, acute stress disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder;
3. Distinguish panic attack from panic disorder
4. List the common general medical and substance-induced causes of anxiety, and assess for these causes in evaluating a person with an anxiety disorder
5. Outline psychotherapeutic and pharmacologic treatments for each of the anxiety disorders
6. Compare and contrast clinical presentations of anxiety disorders in children and adults
7. Discuss the role of anxiety and anxiety disorders in the presentation of general medical symptoms, the decision to visit a physician, and health care expenditures

Somatoform and Factitious Disorders

1. State the clinical characteristics of somatization disorder, conversion disorder, pain disorder, body dysmorphic disorder, and hypochondriasis
2. List the psychiatric disorders that have high comorbidity with somatoform disorders
3. Discuss the implications of the high rate of underlying general medical/neurologic illness in patients diagnosed with pain disorder and conversion disorder
4. List the characteristic features of factitious disorder and malingering, and compare these with the somatoform disorders
5. Discuss the frequency and importance of physical symptoms as manifestations of psychological distress
6. Summarize the principles of management of patients with somatoform disorders
7. Discuss difficulties physicians may have with patients with these diagnoses

Dissociative and Amnesic Disorders

1. List a differential diagnosis of psychiatric, substance-induced, and general medical conditions that may present with amnesia and discuss the evaluation and treatment of persons with amnesia
2. State the clinical features of dissociative amnesia, dissociative fugue, depersonalization disorder, and dissociative identity disorder
3. Discuss the hypothesized role of psychological trauma, including sexual, physical, and emotional abuse, in the development of dissociative disorders (and posttraumatic stress disorders)
4. Discuss the etiologic hypotheses, epidemiology, clinical features, course, and treatment of dissociative identity disorder
5. State the indications for an amobarbital interview and for hypnosis

Eating Disorders

1. Summarize the etiologic hypotheses, clinical features, epidemiology, course, comorbid disorders, complications, and treatment for anorexia nervosa
2. Summarize the etiologic hypotheses, clinical features, epidemiology, course, comorbid disorders, complications, and treatment for bulimia
3. Discuss the role of the primary care physician in the prevention and early identification of eating disorders
4. List the medical complications and indications for hospitalization in patients with eating disorders

Sexual Dysfunctions and Paraphilias

1. Discuss the anatomy and physiology of the male and female sexual response cycles;
2. Obtain a patient's sexual history, including an assessment of risk for sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV
3. State the implications of the high prevalence of sexual dysfunctions in the general population, particularly in the medically ill
4. List the common causes of sexual dysfunctions, including general medical and substance-related etiologies
5. Summarize the manifestations, differential diagnosis, and treatment of hypoactive sexual desire disorder and sexual aversion disorder; male erectile disorder and female sexual arousal disorder; female and male orgasmic disorders and premature ejaculation; and dyspareunia and vaginismus
6. Define the term paraphilia
7. List and define each of the paraphilias
8. Review the management of the paraphilias
9. Discuss the prevalence, manifestations, diagnosis, and treatment of gender identity disorder

Sleep Disorders

1. Describe normal sleep physiology, including sleep architecture, throughout the life cycle;
2. Obtain a complete sleep history
3. Discuss the manifestations, differential diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of primary sleep disorders, including dyssomnias and parasomnias

4. Describe typical sleep disturbances that accompany psychiatric and substance use disorders
5. Summarize the effect(s) of psychotropic medications on sleep
6. Describe sleep hygiene treatment

Personality Disorders

1. List the three descriptive groupings (clusters) of personality disorders in the DSM-IV and describe the typical traits of each personality disorder
2. Summarize the neurobiological, genetic, developmental, behavioral, and sociological theories of the etiology of personality disorders, including the association of childhood abuse and trauma
3. Discuss the biogenetic relationships that exist between certain Axis I and Axis II disorders (e.g., schizotypal personality disorder and schizophrenia)
4. Discuss the epidemiology, differential diagnosis, course of illness, prognosis, and comorbid psychiatric disorders in patients with personality disorders
5. List the general medical and Axis I psychiatric disorders that may present with personality changes
6. Identify difficulties in diagnosing personality disorders in the presence of stress, substance abuse, and other Axis I disorders
7. Discuss the concepts of hierarchical levels of defense and regression under stress, and list typical defense mechanisms used in various personality disorders
8. List the psychotherapeutic and pharmacologic treatment strategies for patients with personality disorders
9. Discuss the management of patients with personality disorders in the general medical setting
10. Summarize principles of management of patients with personality disorders, including being aware of one's own response to the patient, soliciting consultations from colleagues when indicated, and using both support and nonpunitive limit setting

Psychopharmacology and other Treatment Options

Anxiolytics

1. The indications, mechanism of action, pharmacokinetics, common side effects, signs of toxicity, and drug interactions of the different benzodiazepines and sedative-hypnotics;
2. The consequences of abrupt discontinuation
3. Patient characteristics associated with benzodiazepine abuse
4. Guidelines for prescribing benzodiazepines
5. The differences (mechanism of action, onset of effect, and indications) between buspirone and benzodiazepines

Antidepressants:

1. Indications, mechanisms of action, pharmacokinetics, common or serious side effects (including overdose potential), signs of toxicity, and drug interactions of tricyclics, second generation (atypical) antidepressants, monoamine oxidase inhibitors, and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors
2. The pretreatment assessment and strategies of antidepressant use, including ensuring adequacy of trial and blood level monitoring

3. The effect of antidepressants on the cardiac conduction system and electrocardiogram;
4. Dietary and pharmacologic restrictions in prescribing a monoamine oxidase inhibitor
5. Advantages of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors

Antipsychotics (neuroleptics)

1. The indications, mechanisms of action, pharmacokinetics, common or serious side effects, signs of toxicity, and drug interactions of antipsychotics
2. Differences between high-potency and low-potency antipsychotics, including the side effects common to each group
3. Diagnosis and management of extrapyramidal side effects including acute dystonia, parkinsonism, akathisia, tardive dyskinesia, and neuroleptic malignant syndrome
4. The indications and special considerations in using clozapine and risperidone

Mood Stabilizers

1. The indications, mechanism of action, pharmacokinetics side effects, signs of toxicity (neurological gastrointestinal, renal, endocrine, cardiac), and drug interactions of lithium
2. The pretreatment assessment and strategies of use of lithium, including blood level monitoring
3. The indications, mechanisms of action, pharmacokinetics, common and serious side effects, toxicity, drug interactions, and plasma level monitoring for carbamazepine, valproic acid, and calcium channel blockers

Anticholinergics

1. The indications, mechanisms of action, pharmacokinetics, common and serious side effects, signs of toxicity, and drug interactions of anti-parkinsonian agents
2. Which antidepressants and antipsychotics have a higher incidence of anticholinergic side effects
3. Special considerations in prescribing these medications in the elderly
4. The high prevalence of anticholinergics in over-the-counter medications

Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)

1. Indications, physiologic effects, and side effects of ECT
2. Clinical situations in which ECT may be the treatment of choice
3. Pretreatment assessment, including conditions requiring special precautions
4. The medical care of the patient before, during, and after ECT treatment

Psychotherapies

1. State the characteristics and techniques of, and common indications and contraindications for, psychodynamic psychotherapy, psychoanalysis, supportive psychotherapy, cognitive and behavioral therapies, group therapies, couples and family therapy, and psycho educational interventions
2. Describe behavioral medicine interventions (e.g., relaxation training, assertiveness training, contingency management, stimulus control, relapse prevention, biofeedback) and know for which medical problems they are effective (e.g., smoking cessation) and ineffective
3. Define and begin to recognize transference, countertransference, and commonly used defense mechanisms; discuss the concepts of hierarchical levels of defense and regression

under stress; and list some typical defense mechanisms used in various personality disorders

4. State the major findings of studies of the efficacy of psychosocial interventions in the treatment of psychiatric and general medical disorders and in reducing health care costs
5. Discuss techniques for increasing the likelihood of successful referral for psychotherapy.