

Module 7

Medication Management: Professional Roles and Best Practices

Learning Goals

1. Identify and define the five major roles of non-medical mental health professionals in relation to the medication of clients' problems.
2. Explain the differences between traditional, interdisciplinary and transformational collaboration between professionals.
3. Explain the partnership model of practice with clients.
4. Apply "best practices" in assessments, referrals, medication monitoring and court affidavits.

Questions for Practice, Supervision and Administration

1. Using one of your current cases receiving psychotropic medication, identify if "best practices" have been used for assessing the client, referring the client for a medication evaluation, or monitoring the medication's effects on the client.
2. Review the recommended guidelines for court affidavits and compare to a recent affidavit you submitted:
 - a. Were all the items in the recommended guidelines included?
 - b. Which items did you exclude and why?
 - c. In your agency, would the recommended guidelines for court affidavits be looked at favorably, or as a hindrance to efficient practice?
 - d. Are you confident you had access to all the relevant information?
 - e. If you were the judge having to rule on the request to medicate a child under state supervision, would you feel properly informed and guided by your affidavit?
 - f. What would help you to provide a more complete affidavit (theoretical knowledge, practical training, ability to gather information, ability to infer, supervisory and administrative support, interest from judges, different forms, etc.)?

3. Refer to the medication monitoring guidelines in this module and compare to one of your cases:
 - a. Are there any “red flag” concerns, such as the child is under age 5, receiving multiple medications or more than 1 medication from the same “class,” having changed medications frequently over the past few months, not having been assessed for adverse effects on a regular basis?
 - b. Is the child experiencing any of the side effects listed?
 - c. Is there a process for noting this in his case file? For reporting to the prescribing physician?
 - d. Is the child seeing a psychiatrist frequently enough for medication monitoring? Have you had a chance to ask the prescriber any questions, or express any concerns you may have? Has there been a follow-up?
 - e. Are the child’s parents aware of these adverse effects?