

Journal Entry

In the beginning of this clinical practicum one of my goals were to “familiarize myself different mental health diagnosis in children and adolescent population.” I was able to achieve this goal by working with my preceptor to go over specific diagnosis for children and adolescent and how it differs from adult population. The DSM V manual was utilized to aide in appropriately diagnosing these population. Another one of my goals were to “confidently utilize proper screening tools to help diagnose patients.” My preceptor was able to provide me appropriate screening tools for each new patient intake that we had during this clinical practicum. Although, we only had a handful of new patient intakes throughout this clinical experience. My last goal was to “sharpen my skills in doing MSE’s.” I was able to achieve this goal by doing MSE’s independently while my preceptor observed, and she gave me feedback after the interview.

Three challenging patients

The first of my challenging patient was the one who refused to be interviewed due to her psychotic episode. The patient refused to answer questions appropriately during the interview so it was difficult to get any information that will help with her diagnosis. Another patient that I found challenging was a patient who was depressed due to losing his wife and was hopeless and helpless but refused to take any medications and refused to go to therapy. And lastly, the patient that I had who reported that he was being molested by his family member, but he was afraid to report it to the police due to fear of retaliation from family members.

I learned from this practicum experience that it is important to utilize technological advantages such as genetic testing to help appropriately prescribe medications for each patient. I also learned that providers need to diagnose and prescribe medications for patients to due