

Service Wants and Needs: Negotiating Medication

How does a psychiatrist decide what to prescribe?

- Medication
 - Distress
 - Diagnosis
 - Symptoms
 - Risk

How does a psychiatrist decide what to prescribe?

- Talking treatment (psychotherapy, CBT, counselling)
 - Distress
 - Diagnosis
 - Ethnicity
 - ‘Insight’
 - ‘Intelligence’

Negotiating medication: key issues

- Is your doctor offering you impartial advice about your treatment?
- What happens if you do not wish to follow the advice offered by your doctor:
 - and you are deemed mentally competent?
 - and you are not deemed mentally competent?

Mental Capacity and Competence

- Understanding and remembering information about treatment.
- Believing the essential information about treatment.
- Weighing it in balance to arrive at a choice.

Advance Statements in Mental Health Care

- May be helpful in situations where people temporarily lack competence to make decisions
- You must be competent at the time you make a statement
- There may be problems implementing AS (e.g. getting them in your care plan)
- There is no absolute duty on health professionals to respect AS

CMA Code of Ethics: Fundamental Responsibilities

- Consider first the well-being of the patient.
- Treat all patients with respect; do not exploit them for personal advantage.
- Provide for appropriate care for your patient, including physical comfort and spiritual and psychosocial support even when cure is no longer possible.
- Resist any influence or interference that could undermine your professional integrity.
- Refuse to participate in or support practices that violate basic human rights.

http://www.cma.ca/index.cfm/ci_id/2419/la_id/1.htm

CMA Code of Ethics: Responsibilities to the Patient

- Recognize and disclose conflicts of interest that arise in the course of your professional duties and activities, and resolve them in the best interest of patients.
- Inform your patient when your personal values would influence the recommendation or practice of any medical procedure that the patient needs or wants.
- Do not exploit patients for personal advantage.
- Take all reasonable steps to prevent harm to patients; should harm occur, disclose it to the patient.
- Recognize your limitations and, when indicated, recommend or seek additional opinions and services.

CMA Ethics: Communication, Decision Making and Consent

- Provide your patients with the information they need to make informed decisions about their medical care, and answer their questions to the best of your ability.
- Respect the right of a competent patient to accept or reject any medical care recommended.
- Respect your patient's reasonable request for a second opinion from a physician of the patient's choice.

Conclusions

- Doctors have a duty to listen to patients' preferences and, as far as is possible, to respect them.
- People who are deemed mentally competent have the right to refuse any medication or treatment offered to them
- The situation for people who lack competence is much less clear
- Advance statements ('living wills' or Ulysses contracts) may be helpful for some