

Implementing Morbidity & Mortality Conferences for the Department of Psychiatry

Background

Morbidity & Mortality conferences are a powerful forum for teaching physicians independent of specialty type. They provide a non-judgmental and comprehensive peer review process for both faculty and residents to examine their medical practice, to identify adverse events, and to address systems and medical errors. Instead of focusing on individual caregiver errors, Morbidity & Mortality conferences allow the physicians to focus on system wide problems and/or issues that affected the outcome of the particular case in discussion. The Department of Psychiatry does not currently offer a Morbidity & Mortality style conference.

Objective

The aim of this project is to implement a Morbidity & Mortality Conference for the Department of Psychiatry and to align our educational goals with those mandated by the ACGME.

Methods

We will hold a Morbidity & Mortality conference on a monthly basis. The conference will include faculty, residents, medical students, and members from the multidisciplinary treatment team when considered appropriate. Identification of potential cases will be handled via the inpatient chief resident and a senior faculty member. This will provide for any member of

the Department of Psychiatry to recommend specific cases for review.

Results

Morbidity & Mortality Conferences will begin April, 2013.

Discussion

In the field of Psychiatry, we can benefit from a venue where adverse events are discussed openly. To this end, we will run Morbidity & Mortality conferences in an open and interactive format. This will allow for a focused educational opportunity that is clinically based. Furthermore, the participants will learn to develop skills in discussing extremely difficult patient outcomes in a positive manner.

Conclusion

A structured Morbidity & Mortality conference is an effective way to engage multiple members of the healthcare team in a discussion of adverse outcomes. It may also prove to be an important part of establishing a culture of safety and identifying complex systems-based changes for quality improvement. By implementing a Morbidity & Mortality conference the Department of Psychiatry will possess a unique opportunity to incorporate all 6 ACGME competencies with the ultimate goal of improving patient care.

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