## Assess and manage complex child/adolescent

### Area of practice
Child and adolescent psychiatry

### EPA identification
ST3-CAP-AOP-EPA8

### Stage of training
Stage 3 – Advanced

### Title
Assesses and implements a management plan for a complex clinical presentation where there are ongoing child protection concerns.

### Description
The trainee independently carries out an assessment and implements a management plan for a clinical situation where there are multiple needs and significant child protection concerns. This involves:

- a sophisticated assessment, identification and prioritisation of issues and concerns
- implementing a comprehensive management plan that addresses risk issues and articulates immediate/short-/long-term goals or strategies
- clear delineation of roles and responsibilities with the family, care team and statutory welfare agency
- engagement and collaboration with all stakeholders (identifying when engagement and collaboration has not been successful and seeking additional support to address this)
- implementing and communicating an appropriate safety plan and management strategy with relevant parties.

### Fellowship competencies

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<th>ME</th>
<th>COM</th>
<th>COL</th>
<th>MAN</th>
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### Knowledge, skills and attitude required

Competence is demonstrated if the trainee has shown sufficient aspects of the knowledge, skills and attitude described below.

#### Ability to apply an adequate knowledge base
- Relevant child protection legislation and the role of statutory agencies.
- Awareness of legal frameworks involved in working with children and adolescents including principles of international and national standards of human rights and responsibilities and legislation related to treatment of mental illness, safety, privacy and confidentiality.
- Mental health act legislation.
- Impact of trauma on the child and family in the short, medium and long term.
- Psychiatric and psychological manifestations of trauma.

**Skills**
- Conducts a comprehensive psychiatric assessment where there is complexity at individual, family and systemic levels.
- Develops and implements a comprehensive management plan responding to the levels of complexity.
- Ability to communicate clearly and work collaboratively with the child, family and statutory and other agencies.
- Ability to consider a parent’s capacity to provide an adequate caretaking environment.
- Ability to provide clinical opinion in relation to child protection matters.
- Consults with other experts and colleagues as required.
- Advocates for the best interests of the child across all systems of care.

**Attitude**
- Capacity to hold best interests of the child at the centre of the assessment and management plan.
- Respectful stance in working across, and within, diverse systems of care.
- Capacity to tolerate and contain distress, uncertainty and ambiguity generated by complexity.

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<th><strong>Assessment method</strong></th>
<th>Progressively assessed across different age groups during individual and clinical supervision, including three appropriate WBAs.</th>
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| **Suggested assessment method details** | • Case-based discussion.  
• Mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercise.  
• Observed Clinical Activity (OCA).  
• Professional presentation. |

**References**
COL, Collaborator; COM, Communicator; HA, Health Advocate; MAN, Manager; ME, Medical Expert; PROF, Professional; SCH, Scholar