### Commencing psychopharmacological treatment for children and adolescents who have not previously been treated with psychopharmacology.

#### Description

The trainee:

- engages with the child, adolescent and family to assist them to understand the rationale for medication treatment within the broader treatment context (in addition to non-medication interventions such as parent, family or individual therapy)
- informs the child, adolescent and their family of the expected benefits including the likely timeframe of response
- informs the child, adolescent and family of the risk of the medication which should include the common, and less common but significant, adverse effects
- instigates a review process for benefits and risks
- adheres to applicable state/territory/national regulatory requirements
- obtains and documents consent of the child, adolescent and parents.

#### Fellowship competencies

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<th>Fellowship competencies</th>
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<th>HA</th>
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<tr>
<td>COM</td>
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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**

- Knowledge of psychotropic prescribing in children and adolescents, including:
  - developmental differences in pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics
- legislative requirements as relevant to the medication
- off-label prescribing
- current evidence base and its limitations
- best child and adolescent psychiatric practice
- social debate around medication prescribing in children.

- Demonstrates an awareness of the implications for other systems involved with the child.

**Skills**
- Undertakes a detailed and comprehensive assessment of a child and family to inform prescribing practice.
- Encourages discussion, questions and interaction within the clinical encounter to ensure understanding, adapting communication to the developmental stage and background of the child.
- Monitors response, including benefits and adverse effects of treatment.
- Documents the rationale for medication treatment and issues related to consent.
- Addresses possible stigma and misinformation linked to medication prescribing.

**Attitude**
- Ethical prescribing.
- Demonstrates respect for the views and opinions expressed by the child, adolescent and family with regards to the treatment offered and incorporates these views in treatment planning.

**Assessment method**
Progressively assessed across different age groups during individual and clinical supervision, including three appropriate WBAs.

**Suggested assessment method details**
- Observed Clinical Activity (OCA).
- Mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercise.
- Case-based discussion.
- Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS).

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