## Title

**Assess and manage psychiatric illness in patients with a chronic medical illness.**

## Description

The trainee must demonstrate an ability to assess, identify and manage psychological distress and/or psychiatric illness in a patient with a chronic medical illness.

## Fellowship competencies

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ME</th>
<th>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HA</td>
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<td>SCH</td>
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<td>COL</td>
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<td>PROF</td>
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<td>MAN</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

- Common psychological responses of individuals with a chronic medical illness including abnormal illness behaviour.
- Common psychiatric comorbidities in individuals with a chronic medical illness.
- Common psychological symptoms related to the underlying chronic medical illness.
- Psychodynamic factors, eg. countertransference, transference and therapeutic nihilism, and how these factors can influence the behaviour of the health provider.
- Appropriate biological, psychological and social therapies to manage psychiatric symptoms in patients with a chronic medical illness.
- Challenges of the use of medications in patients with a chronic medical illness, eg. drug interactions.
- Aware of the evidence basis for psychological and other interventions for improving quality of life in chronic illness.

### Skills

- Provides a comprehensive biopsychosocial assessment including consideration of:
- treatment adherence
- family and cultural factors
- the patient’s understanding of the illness
- illness related behaviour.

- Works collaboratively with other health professionals to provide a psychiatric assessment and manage patients with chronic medical illness.
- Develops and recommends an appropriate management plan in a consultation or liaison role.
- Demonstrates effective verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to take into consideration the patient’s expressed will and preferences, prioritise these and negotiate tensions when these cannot be the primary consideration.
- Ability to instil hope in the patient and their carers.

**Attitude**
- Understands the importance of advocacy.
- Aware of the impact on the treating team of caring for people with chronic medical illness.
- Aware of the limitations of a consultation–liaison role.
- Models a hopeful and optimistic attitude with an understanding of patient dignity.
- Attitude of openness to a range of views about potentially helpful strategies.

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<tr>
<th>Assessment method</th>
<th>Progressively assessed during individual and clinical supervision, including at least three appropriate WBAs.</th>
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| **Suggested assessment method details** | • Mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercise.  
• Case-based discussion.  
• Observed Clinical Activity (OCA). |

**References**

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