

KNOWLEDGE OF PHARMACOLOGICAL TREATMENTS AND ELECTROCONVULSIVE THERAPY (ECT)

Knowledge of pharmacological treatments and electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) for all healthcare professionals

An ability to draw on knowledge of the common treatments used to address mental health difficulties in patients experiencing an acute mental health crisis, including pharmacological treatments (medication) and Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)	
An ability to draw on knowledge that the prescribing and monitoring of pharmacological treatments may have a varying intensity and time-course, depending on the complexity, co-morbidity and chronicity of the mental health difficulties being treated	
An ability to draw on knowledge of the:	
	benefits and risks of pharmacological treatments and ECT
	common side effects of pharmacological treatments and ECT
	misuse of pharmacological treatments and ECT
	an ability to raise any concerns with the prescribing practitioner
An ability to draw on knowledge that some pharmacological treatments and ECT can be associated with physical health issues, such as cognitive difficulties, diabetes, and obesity	
An ability to draw on knowledge of anticholinergic burden of pharmacological treatments and the impact this can particularly have on those in later life, including cognitive impairment, falls, and delirium	
An ability to draw on knowledge that the patient must understand the rationale for pharmacological treatments, which may mean having regular review meetings (due to potential fluctuations in their presentation and cognitive capacity)	
An ability to ensure that any concerns that the patient has about pharmacological treatments are taken seriously and addressed	
An ability to draw on knowledge of the appropriate storing and management of medication	
An ability to draw on knowledge that ECT is only recommended in certain circumstances, such as:	
	a last-resort treatment for patients with severe mental health difficulties once all other interventions are exhausted
	when patients have less severe difficulties but have either responded well to ECT in the past or specifically requested it
	where the availability of other treatment options is reduced, for example, due to the patient having a co-existing medical condition
An ability to draw on knowledge of the specific administration procedures of ECT, including:	
	completing a capacity assessment for consent and, if a patient lacks capacity, seeking out a second opinion
	providing information outlining the treatment process, its likely benefits and risk, and possible side effects
	offering the patient an opportunity to discuss the treatment, raise concerns, and ask questions
	gaining written informed consent from the patient for treatment delivery
	regular review meetings to monitor the impacts of the treatment
an ability to draw on knowledge that this process should involve family and carers whenever possible	

Knowledge of psychiatric treatments for staff with prescribing rights

An ability to draw on knowledge of national guidance regarding the role of pharmacological treatments and ECT of patients who are receiving inpatient care (for example, NICE or SIGN guidelines)	
	an ability to draw on relevant evidence that indicates the basis for safe and effective prescribing
	an ability to recognise that medication can be prescribed in the absence of specific NICE/SIGN guidance
	an ability to recognise that ECT can only be prescribed under specific NICE guidance and requires specific procedures to be undertaken
An ability to draw on knowledge of interactions between prescribed and non-prescribed treatments or medication	
An ability to draw on knowledge of the potential adverse effects of pharmacological treatments and ECT, especially when treatment is being initiated	
An ability to draw on knowledge of the conditions where the patient may not have a right to refuse pharmacological treatments and ECT (relating to capacity and their rights when under section of the Mental Health Act)	
An ability for prescribing practitioners to act as a resource to their colleagues (for example, acting as sources of advice or consultation, or offering relevant training)	
An ability to recognise that prescribing practitioners require regular on-going training, professional development, and supervision	
An ability to draw on knowledge that patients may require information in an easy-to-read format and for information to be repeated and translated	

Working with patients (all healthcare professionals)

An ability to carry out a diagnostic assessment (or request support or input from an appropriately trained practitioner to do so) to identify the most appropriate course of treatment and intervention	
An ability to discuss with the patient and their family and carers:	
	the potential role and benefits of pharmacological treatments and ECT in the patient's treatment regimen
	the potential side-effects of pharmacological treatments and ECT
An ability to recognise significant side-effects and to take appropriate action (for example, to refer to a psychiatrist or medical practitioner)	