

# Psychosis

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## Rationale

Psychosis is a severe and disabling psychiatric symptom present in several disorders, the most common of which is schizophrenia. It can be associated with severe psychosocial dysfunction and can be life threatening.

## Causal Conditions

(list not exhaustive)

- Psychotic disorders (e.g., schizophrenia , schizoaffective disorder)
- Psychotic disorder due to a medical condition (e.g., seizure disorder, central nervous system tumors)
- Substance induced psychotic disorder (e.g., corticosteroids, cocaine)

## Key Objectives

Given a patient with psychosis, the candidate will diagnose the cause, severity, and complications, and will initiate an appropriate management plan. In acute psychosis, particular attention should be paid to differentiating a primary psychotic disorder from delirium and from psychosis secondary to a medical condition or substance induced psychosis.

## Enabling Objectives

Given a patient with psychosis, the candidate will

- list and interpret critical clinical findings, including
  - a. mental status examination, with attention to risk factors for harm to self or others and assessment of capacity;
  - b. collateral history (if available);

- c. physical examination (when safe to do so), with particular attention to findings suggesting an underlying or coexisting medical condition or substance use;
- list and interpret critical investigations, including
  - a. appropriate laboratory investigations and other tests (e.g., neuroimaging);
- construct an effective management plan, including
  - a. ensuring safety of patient and others (e.g., certification);
  - b. ensuring ongoing assessment of capacity and the need for a substitute decision-maker;
  - c. pharmacotherapy (both acute and maintenance);
  - d. attending to the patient's psychosocial needs (e.g., community and family resources, housing);
  - e. treating underlying disorders or comorbidities;
  - f. counselling and supporting patient/caregiver/family about psychosis;
  - g. referring the patient for specialized care, if necessary.