

Course Title/Code: Psychosis and Society: Stigma, Legal and Ethical Issues (MMPH6202)

Department: Psychiatry

Objective:

The experience of psychosis not only creates unique issues for the patient, but also carries societal implications that eventually interact with individual experiences. An understanding of the societal positions in relation to psychosis is key to formulating strategies for relevant public awareness and policies. This module will start with an in-depth consideration of what constitutes health and disease, clarifying the distinction between psychotic symptoms and psychotic disorders. The nature and impact of stigma and self-stigma, and the role of the media will also be explored in the module. Ethical principles, and the skills in their practical application in specific clinical situations, will be discussed. This module will also cover particular issues such as confidentiality, compulsory treatment, mental capacity for decision making, and the principles involved in the use of mental health status as defense in criminal cases.

Content:

Psychotic disorder and society

- Introduction to the DSM and ICD systems
- Distinction between psychotic symptoms and psychotic disorders
- Reliability, validity, utility and costs of current diagnostic systems
- Implications on research, legal, insurance, pharmaceutical developments
- Comorbidity: facts or artifacts?
- New versions of diagnostic classifications: DSM V and ICD 11

Ethical Issues in Psychosis I

- Principles, codes and ethical theory
- Group discussion

Ethical Issues in Psychosis II

- Application to specific clinical situations
- Confidentiality
- Compulsory treatment
- Institutionalization versus community care
- Psychosis in the workplace
- Group discussion

Psychosis and the law

- Mental capacity; structured capacity assessment
- The principals of Mental Health Law
- Consent to treatment
- The protection of the patient's rights
- The litigation rights of psychiatric patients

- Mental health status as defense in criminal cases

Personal experience of Psychosis

Psychosis stigma

- Approaches in combating stigma
- Renaming psychosis in Hong Kong
- Evolutionary perspective, historical issues
- Influence of culture and societal values

Media and psychosis

Role and impact of the media

Public awareness strategies in psychosis

- Naming of psychosis
- Perception of psychosis
- Public messages and their reception
- Effects of violence incidences
- Public awareness campaigns
- Exercises

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge

- Able to appreciate the relationship of psychosis and society, and the ethical and legal issues involved.
- Familiar with the concept of stigma and its influence on the patient care.
 - Have basic understanding the development of stigma and self stigma, from an evolutionary approach, and social and cultural angle
 - Aware the impact of stigma and self stigma in patient care including both help seeking and recovering process
- Familiar with the principle and effect of the public awareness strategy in early intervention.
 - Aware of the effect of renaming 'psychosis' at different regions
 - Appreciate the importance of media and establishing the percept of psychosis
 - Appreciate different strategies used by different local and international

Skills:

- Demonstrate ability of dissect and discuss the controversial issues in the area of psychosis studies and be able to form and express their own opinions (**PM0012**)

Attitude

- To be motivated and develop interest in future and on-going learning in the relevant field
- Establish an evidence-base approach in clinical practice
- Develop an empathetic attitude in patient care
- Establish an ethical and reflective approach to clinical practice
- Able to respect autonomy of patients and yet balance their clinical needs
- Cultivate an enthusiasm in the care of patients with psychosis both from clinical basis, policy and social perspective.

Prerequisite: None

Duration: 1 semester; 2.5 hours/week; 24 contact hours

Continuous assessment/examination ratio: Continuous assessments 40%
Written examinations 60%

Examination method and duration: Written examination / 1.5 hours