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Impediments to the Implementation of Psychotherapy for Psychosis in Public Mental Health Centers

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Learning Goal:

Despite the NICE and PORT guidelines recommending psychotherapy for psychosis, psychotherapy for psychosis has yet to become the standard of care in practice. The presentation will familiarize attendees with obstacles encountered when trying to implement a psychotherapy for psychosis program in a large public psychiatry setting in the USA.

Abstract Text:

The presentation will examine what has been called the knowledge-service gap, where expert groups publish state-of-the-art evidence-based standards of care for psychosis (as in the NICE Guidelines in the UK and the PORT Guidelines in the US) that are rarely followed in hospitals and clinics. The best treatments are of no value if they are not put into practice. Political, social, and economic realities that contribute to the knowledge-service gap will be discussed, along with a detailed analysis of the impediments to implementing an adequate psychotherapy for psychosis program in a large public mental health center in the US. This institutional case study will address issues of organizational priorities, training, supervision, patient selection, clinician caseloads, and the individual professional aspirations of health center staff which it is hoped will provide a useful template for clinicians and administrators wishing to diminish the knowledge-service gap.

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