

Role of Psychiatry in Treating Patients with FASD Across the Lifespan



Perinatal & Obstetrics Psychiatric Specialists

- Develop perinatal psychiatric services in the neonatal intensive care unit
- Refer to programs and addiction services for pregnant women



Infant & Neonatal Psychiatry

- Identify and support at-risk women and infants
- Contribute to early recognition and interventions which prevent future adverse outcomes



Early Childhood Psychiatry

- Promote mental well-being of children exposed to teratogens and multiple factors impacting development
- Promote healthy attachment
- Facilitate a strengths-based family approach



Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

- Identify differential diagnoses among those with PAE
- Provide parent/child interventions to minimize adverse outcomes (i.e. externalizing behavior)
- Introduce effective biopsychosocial approaches (e.g. multi-modal therapy for complex presentations)



Learning Disability Specialists

- Recognize the multifaceted nature of neurodevelopmental disorders
- Offer services within the Learning Disability Mental Health System that are knowledgeable of the unique characteristics of individuals with FASD



Adult Psychiatry

- Distinguish comorbid conditions requiring pharmacological agents
- Minimize the negative implications of misdiagnosis
- Increase recognition and appropriate treatment of secondary adverse outcomes (e.g., suicidal ideation, self harm)
- Prioritize FASD-informed care



Consultation Liaison Psychiatry

- Identify those with multiple physical pathology presenting with atypical symptoms
- Assist in guiding compliance with medical treatment among those with cognitive challenges
- Liaise with pharmacists to develop more effective compliance strategies



Addiction Psychiatry

- Be mindful of the overrepresentation of FASD and the neurocognitive impairments that may lead them to be unsuccessful in the traditional addiction rehabilitation
- Develop flexible, individual approaches



Forensic Psychiatry

- Assist decision makers in understanding the invisibility of FASD and the psychological implications
- Recommend approaches for diverting and supporting the cognitive offenders with FASD



Geriatric Psychiatry

- Be knowledgeable about the role of early neurodevelopmental disorders and PAE in contributing to the early emergence of aging cognitive disorders
- Accommodate for FASD in end-of-life care