CLINICAL
PSYCHIATRIC/MENTAL HEALTH
TELEMEDICINE
PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTS

- Referrals accepted for District area
- New patient consults and follow ups
- Psychiatric follow ups post discharge
- Professional to Professional consults
- Future: Triage prior to admission to the Acute Inpatient Psychiatry Unit
PSYCHIATRIC PROTOCOLS

• Nurse/social worker must be with the patient during interview
• Patient must be framed/close up during actual interview with the psychiatrist
• Second staff member must be within calling range during interview
PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTS

• Form 1 on hand
• Physician available to consult with psychiatrist in event of an emergency
• Or immediate access to an Emergency
• Ambulance phone number on hand
• Crisis Intervention phone numbers
PSYCHIATRIST’S PERSPECTIVE

• Challenges:
• Technical limitations (resolution, time delay) inhibit interactive assessment, development of rapport
• Safety/Medico-legal issues associated with assessment at a distance – patients that pose imminent danger
PSYCHIATRIST’S PERSPECTIVE

• Opportunities:
• More timely access to psychiatric assessment
• The medium provides a comfortable distance for some patients, leading to unprecedented disclosures
PSYCHIATRIST’S PERSPECTIVE

• Opportunities continued
• New capacity for interaction with the referring physician and treating clinicians
• Opportunity for immediate feedback and formulation of plan for shared care
COMMUNITY TREATMENT ORDER (CTO)

- Clients visited on a monthly to bimonthly basis
- CTO Coordinator has begun to see her clients via videoconference when and where appropriate
- Future: to increase telemedicine usage and decrease travel
DISCHARGE PLANNING

• Multidisciplinary team meeting with multidisciplinary team with or without patient
• Decreases the ‘telephone game’ – the more times the information is exchanged, the greater the potential for error
• Follow post discharge to decrease readmissions
DISCHARGE PLANNING

• Future:
• To increase multidisciplinary teams meeting for all patients that are discharged in the support of others
• To engage outreach workers to participate in care of patient when patient’s admitted to hospital
FORENSICS

• Pre-boards
• Remands
• Expert testimony
• Ontario Review Board Hearings
• Fitness Assessments
FORENSICS

• Future use:
• To increase the use of telemedicine with Outreach workers
• Decrease travel
• Increase the Justice system use
FAMILY VISITS

• Patients maintain relationships
• Assessments done re: family communication/relationships
• Facilitates a more seamless transition home or to home environment
Future

- To continue peer support post discharge
- To increase psychiatric referrals to decrease wait times or to allow a patient to see psychiatrists when none available
- Psychologist consults
- Social work consults
- Nursing consults
- Group or individual counselling