



# PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION



# Psychiatric evaluation

Need to evaluate and rule out medical condition

Need to evaluate for medical conditions masquerading as psychiatric problems

Increased suspicion if:

- ✓ Abnormal vital signs  
(temp, heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure)
- ✓ Over age 50 with no prior psychiatric history
- ✓ Patient with physical health conditions known to have psychiatric symptoms  
(e.g., AIDS, Huntington's disease, lupus, etc.)
- ✓ Atypical symptoms/time course
- ✓ Prominent disorientation, changing levels of alertness, visual or tactile hallucinations

## Things that are not true!!

- ✗ The clinical team can choose not to inform you of the treatment plan if you are a guardian
- ✗ Psychiatrists are not real doctors
- ✗ Psychiatrists are always correct with their first diagnosis of the illness
- ✗ Psychiatrists tell the patient what to do and think
- ✗ If a family member has a diagnosis, the diagnosis for the relative will be the same diagnosis



## Mental Status Exam

- Appearance (neat, disheveled, unshaven, dirty, clad in multiple layers of clothing, dramatic makeup, shaved head, etc.)
- Level of alertness
- Level of cooperation
- Abnormal movements or other physical abnormalities (eg, unsteady gait, lack of eye contact, tremor, etc.)
- Assessment of Speech/Language –e.g., rate, rhythm, quantity, volume, fluency
- Assessment of Thought – e.g., level of organization; abnormal content (suicidal or homicidal thoughts/ intentions/plans; auditory, visual, tactile or olfactory hallucinations; illusions; delusions (fixed false beliefs not held by the patient's socio-cultural group); hyper-religiosity; grandiosity; paranoia
- Assessment of mood (patient's description of his/her emotional state)
- Assessment of "affect" – observer's description of patient's emotional state, and how it varies over time
- Cognitive assessment (memory, orientation, attention, concentration)



## Psychiatric urgent care centers:

- Connections AZ Urgent Psychiatric Care Center (UPC)  
1201 S. 7th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-416-7600
- RI International Recovery Response Center (RRC)  
11361 N. 99th Ave. Peoria, AZ 85345  
602-650-1212, press 2
- Community Bridges Community Psychiatric Emergency Center (CPEC)  
358 E. Javelina Ave. Mesa, AZ 85210  
1-877-931-9142
- Observation Services for Children and Adolescents (OSCA)  
St. Luke's Behavioral Health Center  
1800 E. Van Buren St. Phoenix, AZ 85006  
602-251-8535

RHBA- Mercy Care Grievance and Appeals  
If you prefer to file your grievance in writing,  
please send your complaint to:

Mercy Care Grievance System Department  
4500 E. Cotton Center Blvd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85040  
602-586-1719 or 1-866-386-5794  
Fax: 602-351-2300