

LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER

UNIT A PSYCHIATRIC

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Departmental Purpose

A is an 11-bed Psychiatric unit that serves as an important component of the continuum of care in the LAC+USC Medical Center. The unit exists to provide nursing care to patients with mental illness requiring treatment and hospitalization for acute episodes or exacerbation of their illness. The care is ongoing and encompasses diagnosis, treatment and follow-up care.

Types and Ages of Patients Served

The Psychiatric unit cares for adult and geriatric patients from a diverse cultural and socio-economic background with a major focus on acute phase of mental illness requiring intensive management and supervision. The circumstances leading to admission nearly always involves danger to self, danger to others, and/or grave disability. Major psychiatric diagnoses include: Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, Major Depression, Organic Mental Disorder, Personality Disorder, and Substance Abuse Disorder.

Methods Used to Assess Patient Needs

An interdisciplinary approach to patient care management is used to assist the patient in making an educated decision about his/her care. Nursing and Psychiatric house staff work collaboratively under the direction of the Psychiatric Attending to develop and implement a plan of care. Additional collaboration exists with various ancillary and support services which include but are not limited to Psychiatric Social Services, Recreational Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Psychologist, Medical Case Worker, Medicine, Pastoral Care, Diagnostic, Pharmacy, Food and Nutrition, Epidemiology, and Utilization Review.

Scope of Service and Complexity of Care

The care of the patients involves providing the highest level of nursing and medical management using a multidisciplinary team approach; providing an environment that is safe, therapeutic, and conducive to healing and restoration to patient's optimal level of functioning; providing treatment necessary to minimize symptoms; preventing complications associated with disease and disorder; preventing the transmission of infection; promoting patient comfort; performing required diagnostic and therapeutic procedures; educating patient/family to improve self-care abilities, health maintenance, and rehabilitation; facilitating discharge from the acute care setting to the community; and ensuring continuity of care by encouraging compliance with follow up care and treatment.

Volume and Quality Control Indicators

- Nursing Process
- Medication Error Reduction Plan/Medication Administration Record
- Fall Prevention
- Pharmacy Rounds
- Patient/Family Teaching
- Patient Identification
- Environmental Rounds
- Patient Rights
- Management of Aggressive Behavior

Performance Improvement Indicators

- Restraints
- Assaults
- Golden Hand

Reviewed/Refreshed: December 2010; January 2016; June 2020

Approved: August 2020

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Recognized Standards

Care is provided consistent with applicable regulatory, accreditation, and professional standards inclusive of but are not limited to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, California Department of Public Health, OSHA, Joint Commission, Department of Mental Health, Food and Drug Administration, California Board of Registered Nursing, California Board of Licensed Vocational Nursing, American Nurses Association, American Medical Association, and others.

Availability of Necessary Staff

The unit operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The nursing staff reports to a Nurse Manager (NM) who works collaboratively with the Chief of Psychiatric Services. The Nurse Manager is responsible for providing sufficient quantity of nursing staff to meet the needs of the patients based on acuity and census of the unit. She is responsible for the quality of the nursing care provided and the performance of the assigned staff. Staff on the unit has specific competency assessments for their professional level and/or job description. Registered Nurses, Licensed Vocation Nurses and Nursing Attendants provide patient care. Clerical staff provides support.