Summary of Key Adaptations Needed for the Geriatric Population

The Collaborative Care Model has been demonstrated to be an effective approach to managing mental health conditions in geriatric populations in primary care. Areas for additional learning and skill development in order to work effectively with geriatric populations in CoCM would include:

• Important co-occurring medical conditions, those that may both mimic or complicate mental health conditions.

• Screening, diagnosis and management of dementia.

• Developmental issues of late life.

• Treating practitioners aware of the impact of aging on metabolism and effects of psychotropic medications.

• Behavioral health care managers (BHCMs) trained to screen, diagnose, and deliver evidence-based treatment for geriatric populations.

Additionally, the CoCM Care Team will need:

• To engage with patients’ caregivers through the process of evaluation and treatment.

• To focus on communication between primary care and other medical specialties for management of complex comorbid conditions.

• To be resourceful about remaining engaged with seniors with mobility and transportation issues.

• Knowledge of community resources for seniors.

• Knowledge about social issues likely to be important to seniors:
  - Financial security
  - Food security
  - Safety
  - Financial exploitation
  - Safe housing
  - Stress of role as caregiver

Additional Behavioral Health Measures to Consider

• Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE)™ [Click Here]

• Mini-Cog™ [Click Here]

• Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) [Click Here]

• Memory Impairment Screen (Alzheimer’s Foundation of America) [Click Here]

• General Practitioner assessment of Cognition Screening Test (CPCoG) [Click Here]

Additional Resources

• SAMHSA: Treatment of Depression in Older Adults Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) KIT. [Click Here]

• AMA Journal of Ethics, State of the Art and Science, Differentiating among Depression, Delirium and Dementia in Elderly Patients. [Click Here]

• Caregiver Action Network: Family Caregiver Toolbox. [Click Here]
Key References

• **Efficacy in Geriatric Depression**

• **Effects on Physical Function**

• **Effects on Medical Outcomes**

• **Minority Populations**

• **Patients with Cognitive Impairment**

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