

APA Official Actions

Psychiatry Core Rotation in Primary Care Training

Approved by the Board of Trustees, December 2025

Approved by the Assembly, November 2025

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Issue: There is a massive shortage of psychiatrists to meet the mental health needs of the population. A report estimates an unmet need of up to 15,600 psychiatrists by 2025.¹ There are approximately 59 million U.S. adults who have a mental illness and nearly 40% have not received treatment.² Many Primary Care physicians are already seeing individuals that have a mental illness. The estimates are in the United States that 68% of the individuals with mental illness also have a medical condition, and of individuals that are being seen in Primary Care for a medical condition 29% also have a mental illness.³ Proximately, half of the individuals receive care for mental illness in Primary Care settings.

APA Position:

It is the position of the American Psychiatric Association that the ACGME, in conjunction with associated groups (i.e., AADPRT, AAMC, AMA), should advocate for a core clinical experience for the diagnosis and treatment of mild to moderate mental illnesses as part of Primary Care training. Other specialties should be knowledgeable about evidence-based care for treating mild to moderate mental illnesses, including use of measurement-based care and collaborative care models in Primary Care and have mastery of when an urgent referral to a psychiatrist and higher level of care is needed.

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