

SAQ 6

A 35 yr old male has been brought to your Emergency Department complaining of auditory hallucinations. He has been seen directly by the Psychiatry team who wish to admit him as an involuntary patient.

a. What are the essential features of mental illness? (2 Mark)

Disturbance of thought, mood, volition, perception, orientation or memory that impairs judgment or behaviour to a significant extent.

Disturbance of thought, mood, volition, perception, orientation or memory
Impaired judgment or behaviour to a significant extent

b. What are the criteria for admission and detention as an involuntary patient under a Mental Health Act? (4 Marks)

1 Mark for each of:

Patient must have a mental illness / suspected mental illness
Require urgent treatment
Risk to safety of patient or others

1 Mark for any of:

Self-harm risk to patient's reputation, relationships or finances
Patient has refused or is unable to consent to voluntary treatment
Instituted by a psychiatrist

Taken from Textbook of Emergency Medicine, Cameron, 3rd Edition, Chp 25.1

c. Following referral to hospital under Form 1 under what time frame must a patient be seen by psychiatrist before they are free to leave the hospital. (1 Mark)

Within 24 hours of arrival at an authorised hospital. Under proposed Mental Health Bill 2013 48 hours is allowed in non-metropolitan centres.

d. You have been asked by the Psychiatry registrar to medically clear the patient prior to their admission to the Mental Health Unit. What are the goals of medical clearance? (2 Marks)

Assessment aimed at identifying significant medical illnesses that require immediate non-psychiatric care
Aim to establish if it is medically safe to admit the patient to a psychiatric facility

Taken from Emergency Medicine Manual, Dunn, 5th Edition, Volume 2, Pg 836