

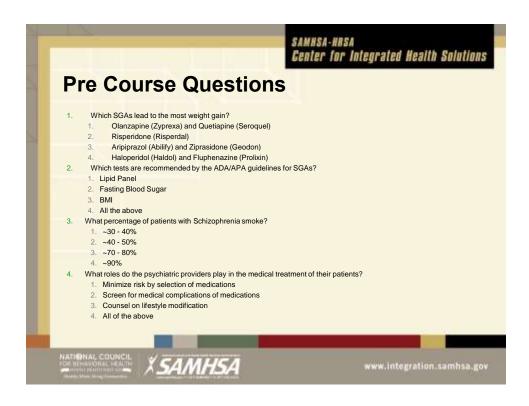
# Module 4 Psychopharmacology for Common Illnesses and Working with Psychiatric Providers

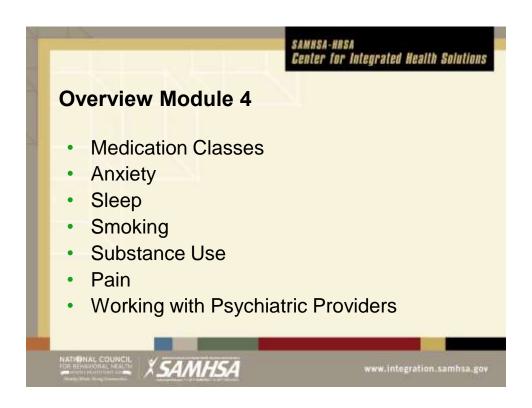
#### Learning Objectives:

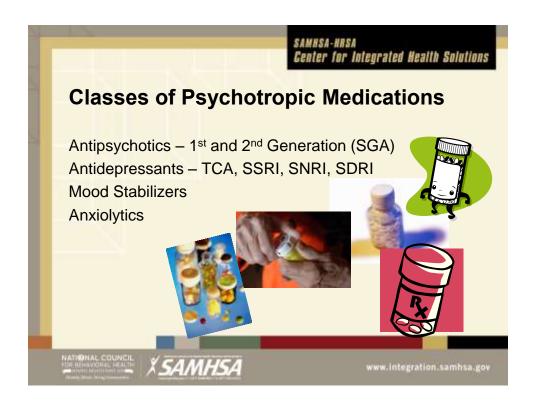
- Understand the most commonly used psychotropic medications and their potential side effects
- Discuss the problems associated with psychotropic prescribing and the role of the PCP-Psychiatric provider liaison in minimizing risk
- Appreciate the need to work with psychiatric provider colleagues on ownership of prescribing and rules of engagement

MATHONAL COUNCIL











#### FGA Side Effects - think Parkinson's

<u>Dyskinesias – movement disorder (nigrostriatal dopamine pathway)</u>

tongue, lips, eye, limbs, fingers

Tardive Dyskinesia – can be permanent

<u>Dystonias – muscle tension</u>

neck (torticollis), arms, legs – any body part painful – benztropine, diphenhydramine to treat – IM available

Akisthesia – extreme restlessness

hard to sit still, pacing, shakiness - can be exhausting, reduce dose

Hyperprolactinemia – D2 blockade (tubuloinfundibular dopamine pathway)

amenorrhea, galactorrhea - lower the dose, switch, work with GYN





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## **DECADE OF THE BRAIN**

1990 - 1999

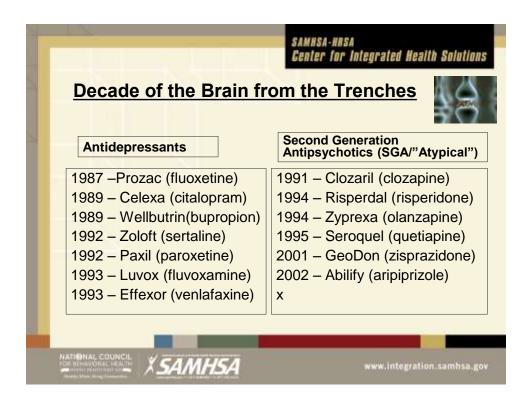
July 17, 1990

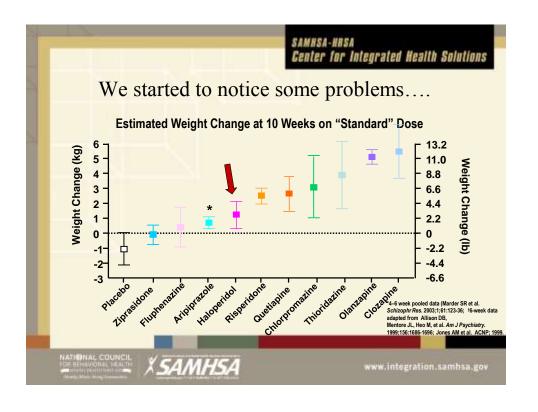
Now, Therefore, I, George Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the decade beginning January 1, 1990, as the Decade of the Brain.

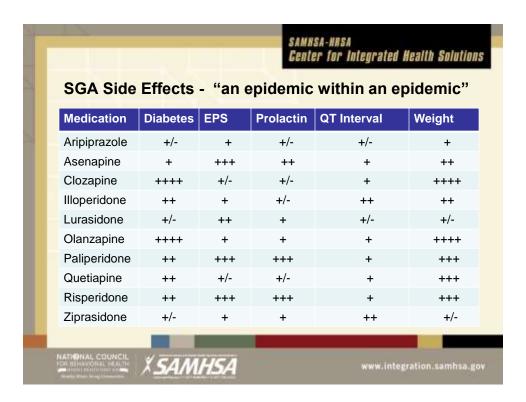
Many new medications introduced with novel mechanisms of action during this time

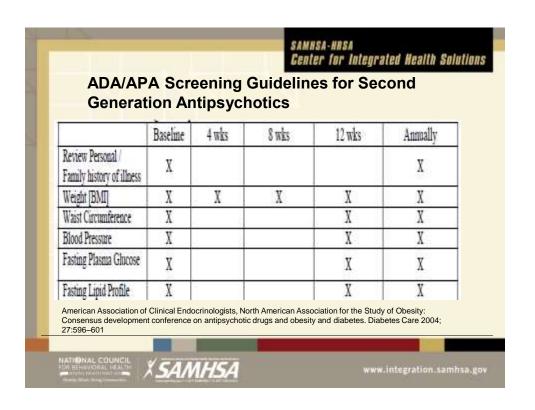


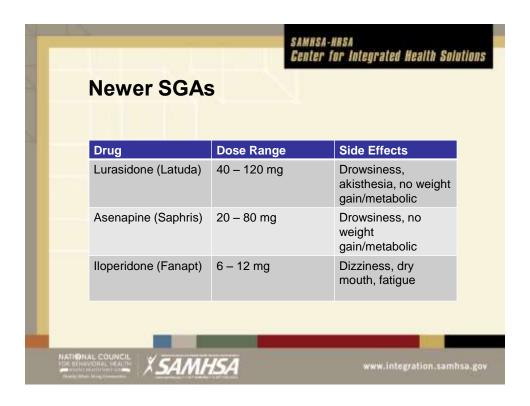


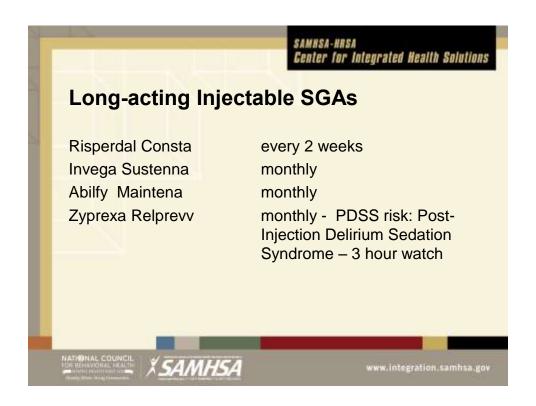












## Clozapine (Clozaril)

- SGA used in treatment resistant patients and can be life saving for those who respond
- However, used as last resort due to life threatening agranulocytosis
- Weekly CBC x 6 months, then q 2 weeks
- Only registered pharmacies may dispense and must have CBC at pharmacy or will not get drug
- Absolute Neutrophil Count (ANC) >2
- "Clozaril clinics" in some sites due to volume and monitoring
- Therapeutic level ~ 200 400 ng/ml
- Same APA/ADA screening guidelines apply due to CV risk

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#### **CATIE Trial**

The NIMH-funded Clinical Antipsychotic Trials of Intervention Effectiveness (CATIE) Study was a nationwide public health-focused clinical trial that compared the effectiveness of older (first available in the 1950s) and newer (available since the 1990s) antipsychotic medications used to treat schizophrenia. \$42.6 million study was conducted over a five-year period at 57 clinical sites across the country.

Perphenazine: (FGA)



Olanzapine, risperidone, ziprazidone, quetiapine (SGA)

Perphenazine (the older medication) equally as effective as the other three newer medications (risperidone, quetiapine, and ziprasidone) and was as well tolerated as the newer drugs. The three newer medications performed similarly to one another. Slight clinical advantage with olanzapine. No substantial advantage of newer medications.

NATIONAL EQUINCIL



## So why did we continue to use SGAs with CATIE trial results?

- \*\*Efficacy
- \*\*Less sedation/more sedation
- \*\*Patient preference
- Low incidence of extra pyramidal symptoms
- Low incidence of tardive dyskinesia
- Cannot tolerate alternatives

Hermes, et al. Prescription of Second Generation Antipsychotics: Responding to Treatment Risk in Real World Practice, Psych Services, 2013 64 (3)





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## Why Not Just Switch?

If switch could get weight loss, lower FBS, favorable lipid profile, right?

#### Problems that might occur:

- · rebound worsening of psychotic symptoms,
- side effects, such as the addition of side effects of the old and new drugs, or side effects specific to the new drug, or
- · differences in efficacy between the drugs and concerns about unequal efficacy
- problems might be specific to the discontinuation of the drug or to the drug to which the patient is switched.

#### The strategy (sometimes called 'overlap and taper')

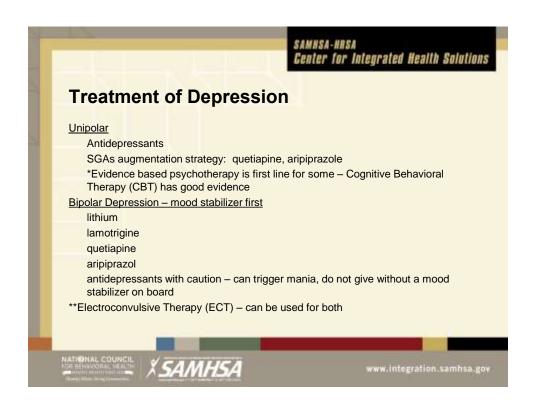
- · slow tapering of the initial antipsychotic after the new drug had been titrated to the full dose
- ensures that the patient is covered with an adequate plasma level of the added drug before the former drug is discontinued
- produces fewer problems during the switch than abrupt discontinuation or gradual discontinuation before starting a new drug.
   Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2010 Dec 8;(12):CD006629.

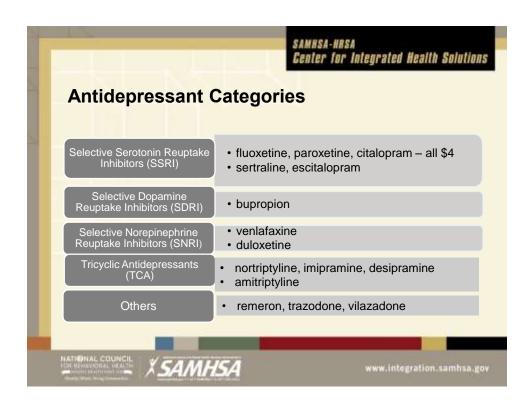
BMC Medicine 2008, 6:18

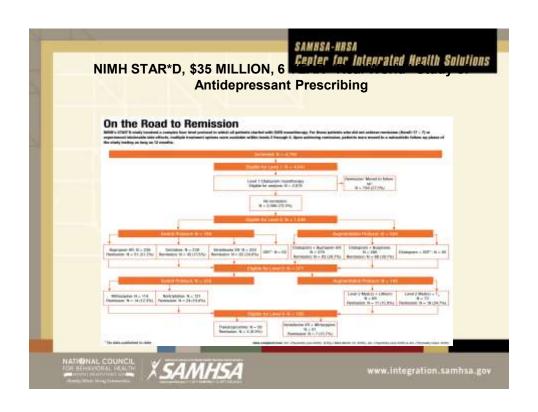


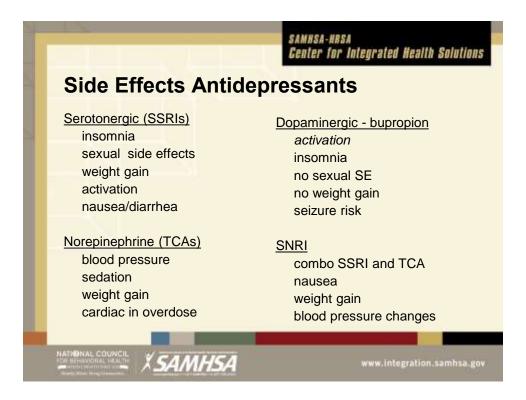


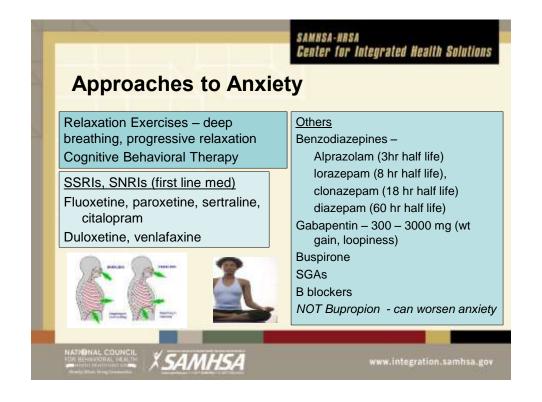
Medication	Dose	Therapeutic	Side Effects	Labs	Cos
Lithium	Varies – start at 300 mg hs	Active 0.8 – 1.2 Maint 0.6 – 0.8 Toxic >1.5 *narrow window	Polyuria, GI, renal, thyroid, wt, diuretics, NSAIDS	12 hr trough TSH Cr	\$4
Valproic Acid	Varies – start at 500 mg	Active 80 – 100 Maint 60 - 80	Hepatic, wt, Platelets,GI Sedation, PCOS	12 hr trough LFTs CBC	\$4
Carbamazapine	Varies – start at 200 mg	none	Sedation, wt WBC, GI, Hepatic	12 hr trough WBC LFTs	\$4
Lamotrigine (depression)	50 – 400	none	Rash, slow titration	none	\$\$
SGAs	varies	none	See previous	See previous	\$\$\$











## **Rational Approach to Benzodiazepines**

- Efficacy, rapid onset make them desirable
- Acute stress, fluctuating anxiety, severe panic are indications
- Limit use to acute episode if possible (4 weeks max) can become difficult to stop this though
- Use in conjunction with other strategies SSRI, therapy
- Side effects include sedation, tolerance, cognitive impairment, concern with increased risk of dementia, early mortality
- Base choice by half-life: short anxiety attacks, events – alprazolam (3 hours) sleep, intermediate coverage – lorazepam (6-8 hour) longer term coverage – clonazepam (18 hours)

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#### **SLEEP**

Sleep hygiene (non pharmacologic approach) first!
Naps common due to medication side effects
and interfere with normal sleep patterns

Trazodone 25 – 200 mg
Gabapentin 300 – 900 mg
Mirtazapine 15 mg
SGAs – especially quetiapine
Benzodiazepines
Zolpidem – generic, 5 mg for women







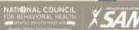
#### SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions **Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA)** 15% of patients with schizophrenia with OSA Common with obesity Excessive daytime sleepiness overlaps with other symptoms of mental Combination of sleep medications, sedating medications, narcotics, benzodiazepines on top of OSA a concern - don't want to make the problem worse Tips: \*\*Find a sleep lab willing to work with your patients \*\*Train case managers in importance of testing so they can help with followthrough Benson KL, Zarcone VP. Sleep abnormalities in schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders. In: Oldham JM, Riba MB, eds. Review of Psychiatry. American Psychiatric Press; 1994:677-705



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## **Polypharmacy**

- 40% of patients with schizophrenia took 2 antipsychotics
  - Add on quetiapine for sleep common
- Common: 1 or 2 antipsychotics, med for side effects, antidepressant, anxiolytic
- \*\*Reconciliation with other meds important and difficult to accomplish. Use your Care/Case managers, EMR
- Work as a team with your psychiatric providers to avoid duplication
- Find non-pharmacologic interventions when possible

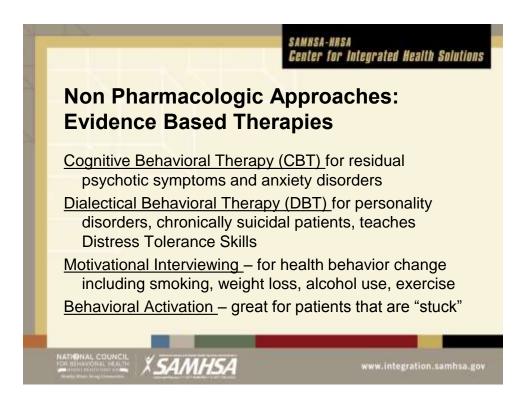


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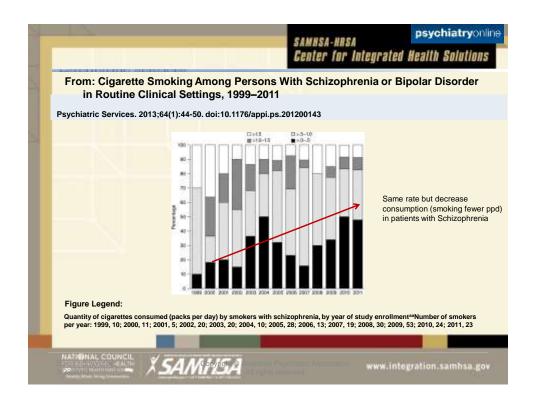
## Day in the life of a psychiatric provider

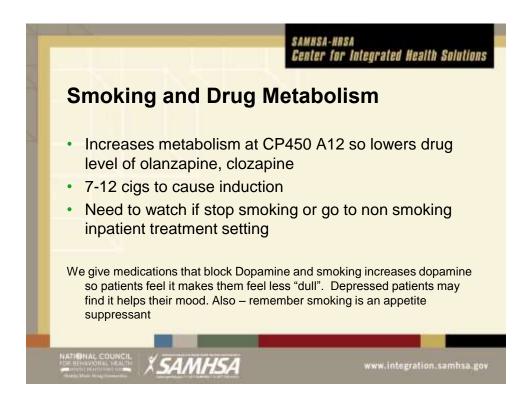
- 49 yo female, Anxiety, citalopram 40 mg (the easy one not SMI)
- 53 year old female, Bipolar I, lamotrigine 400 mg, Abilify 15 mg, chlorpromazine 300 mg, fluvoxamine 100 mg
- 33 year old male, Schizoaffective DO, Invega Sustenna, sertraline 100 mg, trazodone 100 mg, trileptal 300 bid
- 28 year old male, Schizoaffetive DO, Invega Sustenna 234 mg, Invega 6 mg, Trazodone 100 mg, Depakote 1000 mg
- 41 year old female, Schizophrenia, olanzapine 10 mg, topomax 100 mg bid, trazodone 100 mg
- 53 year old male, Schizophrenia, Invega Sustenna, Bupropion SR 300 mg, trazodone 150 mg, citalopram 40 mg















## Remember Motivational Interviewing!

"People are generally better persuaded by the reasons that they themselves discovered than by those which have come into the mind of others."

17<sup>th</sup> Century French Polymath Blaise Pascal – in *Pensées* 





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## **Working with Psychiatric Providers**

#### Co-Management

- Each provider has their own caseload
- PCP manages all medical problems
- Psychiatrist manages all mental health problems
- Work together to reenforce treatment plans

#### Manage with Primary Care Consult

- Psychiatrist works with a care manager
- Manages a caseload of patients for BOTH mental health and basic medical health concerns using protocols from PCP
- PCP available for consultation and stepped care as needed

#### Comprehensive Management

- Typically dually trained psychiatrist – Psych/FP, Psych/IM, Child Psych/Peds
- Provider manages both medical and mental health problems
- Limited number of providers have this expertise

All psychiatrists are responsible for "not making people sicker".





#### **Psychiatric Providers' Responsibilities**

- Minimize: Effects of SGAs and other psychotropic medications
- Screen: For Illness (APA/ADA Guidelines, etc.), others
- Counsel: Lifestyle Modification smoking, weight loss
- <u>Treat</u>: Some chronic medical conditions with adequate training/consultation if desired

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#### **Engage Psychiatric Providers**

- Shared patients, shared illnesses they can counsel, switch meds, minimize side effects, treat – work in partnership with PCP
- Patients see them as their "doctor" and may want their approval first before starting medications from PCP
- Complications of psych meds and medical comorbidities require discussion among colleagues

#### TIPs

- \*Staffing complicated patients together is encouraged
- \*Go to medical staff meetings be part of their team
- \*Educate help restore their skills in treating chronic medical problems – help them be more well-rounded medical providers

MATRONAL COUNCIL



#### **Working with Psychiatric Providers**

- Some places have no nurses, no MAs and psych feel stressed about trying to do this all themselves with scales and blood pressure cuffs
- · Can be insecure about medical skills
- Uncomfortable treating other medical problems "out of my scope of practice", "not safe". Liability concerns.
- Check in with each other before changing each others meds, agree on changes
- May see this as intrusive meddling instead of much needed support? These are "their" pts
- We're on the same team so lot of potential for successful partnerships!



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## Examples – Working with Psychiatric Providers

Psych A is community psychiatrist that has been working for the past 12 years with patients in an urban setting. She feels constrained by the 15 minute med check environment and wishes that she has more time to talk with her patient's and develop a therapeutic alliance more often. She feels that checking vital signs, weighing the patient and talking about lifestyle changes is impossible without more staff and time for patient interaction. Her patients have a number of complex medical problems. She does not have time to call and discuss patients since she does not have a nurse or medical assistant. She has a 16 week back log for new patients.

\*\* How might a partnership with this psychiatrist improve patient care?





## **Examples - continued**

Psych B did a residency in internal medicine and then psychiatry. He has worked for the past 15 yrs only as a psychiatrist and never recertified for internal med. He feels comfortable refilling medications for blood pressure and diabetes in his patients that don't have a PCP however, recently, he is getting concerned about the new medications and new tests coming out for treatment of HTN and DM. He feels he has no other choice since his patients will only come to see him and no other doctor.

\*\*How could you help this psychiatrist provide better care?





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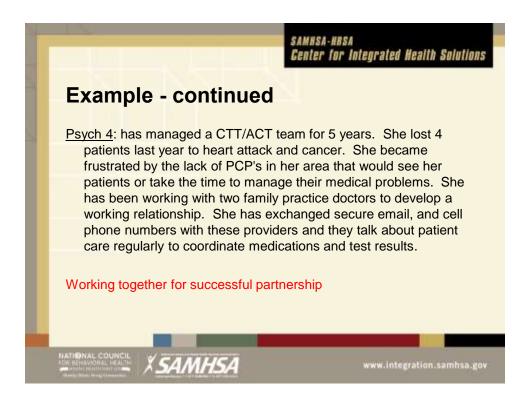
## **Examples - continued**

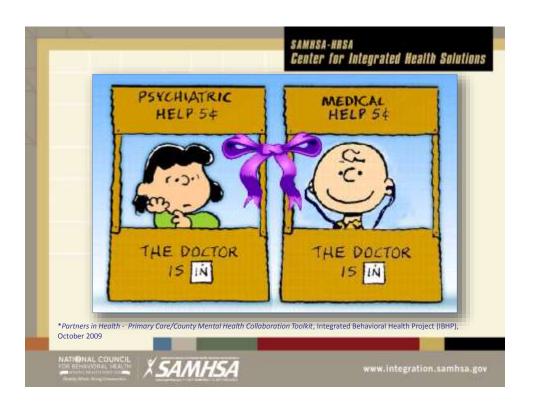
Psych 3 is a CRNP working in a community behavioral health center. She sees patients that are also managed in a federally qualified with center in the area. She admits that she is frustrated that the doctors at the FQHC seem to be giving her patients clonazepam for anxiety. She refers to the docs at the FQHC as "knuckle heads" that don't know drug addicts shouldn't be prescribed these kind of medications.

\*\*What approach could be used to find a solution to this problem?









Interactive Exercise:
Reflections and Discussion
What do you see as the boundaries of care with your psychiatric colleagues?
What might be a best approach to discussing care concerns, such as a patient with cardiovascular disease on olanzapine, with psychiatric provider?
Who could you talk to if there is disagreement among the treating providers?

