The Impact of the Treatment Team in Redefining Remission and Recovery in Schizophrenia

Statement of Need
New advances in the understanding of schizophrenia etiology and treatment have created an increased interest on the part of patients, families, and the treatment team in redefining remission and functional recovery. It is becoming more apparent that patients and clinicians must change their frame of reference when defining remission in schizophrenia to focus on improvements in symptomatic, functional, and cognitive outcomes, as is the case in mood and anxiety disorders. The treatment team plays a crucial role in redefining remission and functional recovery by identification of: functional improvements, barriers to compliance, and improved access to resources. Interventions to enhance medication adherence—careful assessment, assertive case management, psychoeducation, and use of long-acting intramuscular medication—can be useful tools for improving functional outcomes and obtaining remission in patients with schizophrenia. In this evidence-based psychCME TV activity, the experts explore the emerging recovery movement in mental health and discuss the role the multidisciplinary treatment team plays in improving patient outcomes.

Activity Goal
To explore the role of the multidisciplinary treatment team in redefining remission and recovery in patients with schizophrenia.

Learning Objectives
At the end of this CE activity, participants should be able to:
- Redefine treatment success in schizophrenia beyond symptom improvement to include remission and functional recovery.
- Identify the attributes of the ideal treatment team to provide optimal care to patients with schizophrenia.
- Examine novel treatment programs in mental health that promote recovery in schizophrenia.
- Design a plan that includes the treatment team in the pharmacological and non-pharmacological management of patients with schizophrenia.

Target Audience
Physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, psychologists, social workers, certified case managers, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals with an interest in mental health.