



Interdisciplinary care of the patient in demanding socioeconomic circumstances: a Case Report from general physician point of view

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Background:

General physicians commonly face legal and ethical issues when dealing with patients in demanding socioeconomic circumstances. Interdisciplinary approach is often needed in order to achieve satisfactory treatment results.

Case presentation:

A 78-year-old patient was discharged home after arthroplasty performed due to hip fracture. He lives with his son and wife in poor socioeconomic circumstances. His 46-year-old son, whom he is the legal guardian of, has been treated for schizophrenia since the age of 23. Patient's wife has untreated schizoaffective disorder and is not capable of caretaking. Post-surgery home health care was recommended and provided by our health center, however his wife refused caregivers help due to her untreated psychiatric condition. During the general physician's home visit shortly after the procedure, the patient was found undermedicated, immobile and in unsanitary conditions, which seriously endangered his recovery. After issuing a referral to stationary rehabilitation, social welfare was contacted, in order to transfer patient's guardianship to social welfare or another family member.

Conclusion:

Socioeconomic circumstances can determine a patient's recovery process, despite all the efforts of health institutions and services. Interdisciplinary approach is essential when dealing with psychiatric patients, especially undiagnosed and untreated ones. Social welfare is often involved in these situations in order to regulate legal difficulties that medical workers face in contact with patients. Ideal patient recovery can be achieved by immediate admission to stationary rehabilitation after hospital discharge.

Keywords:

family medicine, interdisciplinary care, schizophrenia, social welfare