Law: When Medicine is Insufficient: Medical Legal-Partnerships

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The views expressed in this presentation are the presenters' own and do not reflect the view of any organizations I am affiliated with. The information included in this presentation should not be considered legal advice.

Disclosure Slide
Ms. Wick has no actual or potential conflict of interest associated with this presentation.

Learning Objectives
1. Recognize social-determinants of health
2. Define the term “medical-legal partnership”
3. List qualities that make medical-legal partnerships successful

Agenda
I. Social Determinants of Health
II. MLP Model
III. Healthcare Provider’s Role in the MLP
IV. What if your organization is not part of an MLP?
V. Questions
I. Social Determinants of Health

Social Determinants of Health

The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels.

http://www.who.int/social_determinants/sdh_definition/en/

Modifiable Contributors to Healthy Outcomes

10-20% 80-90%

Clinical Care Social Determinants of Health
- Health-related behaviors
- Socioeconomic factors
- Environmental factors

Active Learning Question #1

Which of the following is a Social Determinant of Health that affects a patient’s cancer outcome?

a) The patient’s genetic predisposition to breast cancer
b) The patient’s access to public or private transportation
c) The patient’s body’s resistance to the most effective treatment
d) The patient’s body’s response to drug side effects from chemotherapy

II. Medical-Legal Partnership Model
MLPs: An Idea Born of Frustration

Dr. Barry Zuckerman

Reasons Healthcare Providers May Not Want to Address SDoH

• Outside domain
• Healthcare system overloaded
• Effectiveness evidence?

(Magnan, S. NAM Perspectives 2017)
8 MLP Core Elements

1) Formal agreement
2) Defined population
3) Screening strategy
4) Staffing
5) “Lawyer in residence”

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5) “Lawyer in residence”
6) Lawyer provided training
7) Information sharing
8) Designated resources


Active Learning Question #2
Which of these is not a MLP core element?

a) "Lawyer in Residence"
b) Information Sharing
c) Lawyer Provided Training
d) Policy advocacy

Policy Advocacy

MLPs Today
https://medical-legalpartnership.org/partnerships/
Evidence of MLPs' Successes

(Tsai J, et al. Health Aff 2017;36(12):2195-2203)

IV. Healthcare Providers’ Role in MLP

Healthcare Providers’ Role in MLP

• Note: Healthcare provider’s role will be limited by patient-client’s wishes.

Healthcare Providers’ Role in MLP

• Referrals

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• Referrals

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• Referrals

• Write letters

• Testify
Healthcare Providers’ Role in MLP

- Referrals
- Write letters
- Testify
- Answer questions

V. What if your organization is not part of an MLP?

Look for resources:
- Local legal services providers
- Local social services organizations

Contact the National Center for Medical Legal Partnerships

Active Learning Question #3

You are a pharmacist who works with elder, low-income patients. A patient comes to the window and says that Medicare is refusing to pay for his dental surgery, even though it was medically necessary. Your organization is not part of an MLP. To best assist him you could:

a) Say I’m sorry and wish him a good day.
b) Give him the website for local food pantries.
c) Give him the contact information for a local legal services organization that works on Medicare issues.
d) Offer to start a collection jar at the pharmacy.
Questions?

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