

The ABC's of Risk Management for Psychiatrists

ABC

- A**lways Document
- B**e sure to track and review results of lab studies ordered
- C**onsult, as needed
- D**eliver good clinic care
- E**ngage in real communication with patients
- F**ollow applicable laws, regulations, rules, policies
- G**et true informed consent
- H**ave an effective way for patients to contact you, or other healthcare professionals, after hours
- I**nquire about the medications, supplements, and herbal remedies your patient is taking
- J**udiciously refill medications for patients with suicidal behavior
- K**now the state requirements for involuntary hospitalization of a patient
- L**et your record speak for itself, rather than agreeing to informal conversations with third parties (such as attorneys) about patient care
- M**onitor patients on medications



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In California, d/b/a Transatlantic Risk Management and Insurance Services

- N**ever alter the treatment record
- O**nly prescribe in the context of a patient-psychiatrist treatment relationship
- P**atient's perceptions are key
- Q**uietly discuss confidential information so others don't hear
- R**etain records as close to indefinitely as possible
- S**tay current with recent documents in psychiatry
- T**erminate appropriately
- U**nderstand the value of a contemporaneously documented record
- W**atch for potential boundary violations
- X** out (redact) patient identifying information, if at all possible, in the exceptional circumstance that patient information must be released without patient authorization
- Y**ou are responsible for the actions and inactions of your employees and supervisees
- Z**ealously protect your patients' confidentiality

A
BC

