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The Complexities of Managing Patients with Sleep-Wake Disorders: The Need to Treat the Whole Patient

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Release Date: September 2, 2009 Credit Expiration Date: September 2, 2010 Offered Until: September 2, 2010 Note: No live CE credit is being offered for this activity. This activity offers CE credit for:

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STATEMENT OF NEED

Patients with sleep-wake disorders such as obstructive sleep apnea, shift work sleep disorder, and jet lag disorder are complex in their presentation and pose significant therapeutic challenges. Sleep-wake disorder patients often present with the symptom of excessive sleepiness and although highly prevalent and detrimental to the patient, society, and the healthcare system, excessive sleepiness remains under-recognized as well as not appropriately managed. Both patients and physicians often view sleepiness as a normal phenomenon; patients may not mention it, and if they do, physicians may not view it as a serious symptom in need of further attention. In part, the difficulty may arise from the fact that patients often do not complain of excessive sleepiness but instead may use terms like fatigue, tired, and lack of energy that may not raise clinical concern or may lead to misdiagnosis (e.g., depression) and inappropriate treatment. In some cases, patients may report problems with their memory or concentration, or automobile crashes. In fact, patients often do not mention anything at all unless some consequence has ensued, like an automobile crash. In this neuroscienceCME Live and On Demand activity, the expert faculty will examine the challenges of sleep-wake disorders from the primary care and sleep specialist perspective with the goal of providing tools for improved recognition, assessment and coordinated care of the whole patient.

Rakel RE, Clinical and societal consequences of obstructive sleep apnea and excessive daytime sleepiness, Postgrad Med 2009;121:86-95.

ACTIVITY GOAL

To identify and accurately diagnose sleep-wake disorders and improve the continuum of care between primary care and sleep specialists.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this CE activity, participants should be able to:

- Increase the percentage of patient visits during which sleep-wake function is evaluated with a screening tool to improve the recognition of sleep-wake disorder symptoms.
- Utilize diagnostic tools and instruments to improve the accuracy of differential diagnosis of comorbid sleepwake disorders including obstructive sleep apnea and circadian rhythm sleep disorders such as shift work sleep disorder and jet lag disorder in patients.
- Integrate primary care providers and sleep specialists into patient care to improve ongoing communication among providers regarding the optimal management of patients with sleep-wake disorders.

The following learning objectives pertain only to those requesting CNE credit:

- Evaluate available screening tools to improve the recognition of sleep-wake disorder symptoms.
- Identify diagnostic tools and instruments to improve the accuracy of differential diagnosis of comorbid sleep-wake disorders including obstructive sleep apnea and circadian rhythm sleep disorders such as shift work sleep disorder and jet lag disorder in patients.
- Identify a local network of primary care providers and sleep specialists into patient care to improve ongoing communication among providers regarding the overall management of patients with sleep-wake disorders.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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TARGET AUDIENCE

Physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, psychologists, social workers, certified case managers, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals interested in sleep-wake medicine.

CREDIT INFORMATION

CME Credit (Physicians): CME Outfitters, LLC, is accredited Outlitters

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Note to Physician Assistants: AAPA accepts Category I credit from AOACCME. Prescribed credit from AAFP, and AMA Category I CME credit for the PRA from organizations accredited by

CNE Credit (Nurses): This continuing nursing education activity was approved by the New York State Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

It has been assigned approval code 7ZDSU9-10. 1.0 contact hours will be awarded upon successful completion.

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Universal Program Number: 376-000-09-020-H01-P Activity Type: knowledge-based

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