Helping Patients Teaching Students

The COPE Clinic mission is to provide outstanding outpatient psychiatric services in an educational setting, custom designed for medical student education. Staffed by experienced attending faculty, COPE seeks cases representative of primary care. Help us train the next generation of physicians and help your patients with evaluation and management of mental health needs.

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For referrals, contact:
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COPE combines best clinical practice and best teaching practice.

THE BEST IN EDUCATION AND PSYCHIATRY

WHY COPE?

In 2009, the Department of Psychiatry at UNMC began an initiative to redesign the medical student outpatient experience during the 3rd year clerkship.

THE BEST COMBINATION

Using models of teaching already in place in clinics highly rated by students, COPE is designed to provide students the opportunity to assess patients’ mental health needs most commonly seen in primary care in a collaborative, dynamic educational setting. To ensure quality of care, all patients will also be interviewed and staffed by a board-eligible / board-certified attending psychiatrist.

A UNMC PHYSICIANS CLINIC

COPE patients will be seen for initial evaluations and follow-up visits by both medical students and attending faculty. All visits will be billed as a psychiatric service. All patient records will be available in the Centricity system. All referring providers will receive confirmation of patients’ attendance and recommendations.

We work with our referring providers to determine the best long-term care plan for patients, which may include a return to primary care for maintenance medication or intermittent visits to COPE to adjust medication as needed.

Patients referred to COPE may be triaged into other behavioral health clinics for appropriate care.

COPE is not a student-run “free” clinic, although some patients may be seen on a sliding scale.

PATIENT BENEFITS

- High level of psychiatric care by UNMC psychiatric faculty
- Increased contact time with healthcare professionals for assessment and management
- Interdisciplinary collaboration

PATIENTS APPROPRIATE FOR COPE

COPE will be scheduling patients based on the best possible mix of cases for student education. These include:

- Mood disorders
- Anxiety disorders
- ADHD
- Stress and adjustment problems
- Patients between the age of 14 and 65

UNMC Department of Psychiatry COPE Clinic

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