


KD LEGAL NURSE
CONSULTING LLC 


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Legal Nurse Consultants: Medical Record Interpretation and Case Consulting

MO State Public Defenders
Spring Training 2019



In Short- WHY you need
a legal nurse consultant
and HOW we can help
your case....

We
love
ya'll
but...



Me, trying to say generic drug names...



Any Takers?

DIHYDROGEN MONOXIDE CONTAINMENT UNIT
WARNING: MAY CAUSE DIAPHORESIS
MICTURITION AND ACUTE TISSUE HYDRATION

84F pt from ED. PMH of COPD, CHF,
HTN, DM, AFIB. &
PSH of CABGx4,
RTKR, LTHR. Hx of
VRE, MRSA. Will need
PICC, CXR, T&C for 2U
PRBC, STAT.

#ilovemyjob- Sarah B.

som**ee**cards
user card



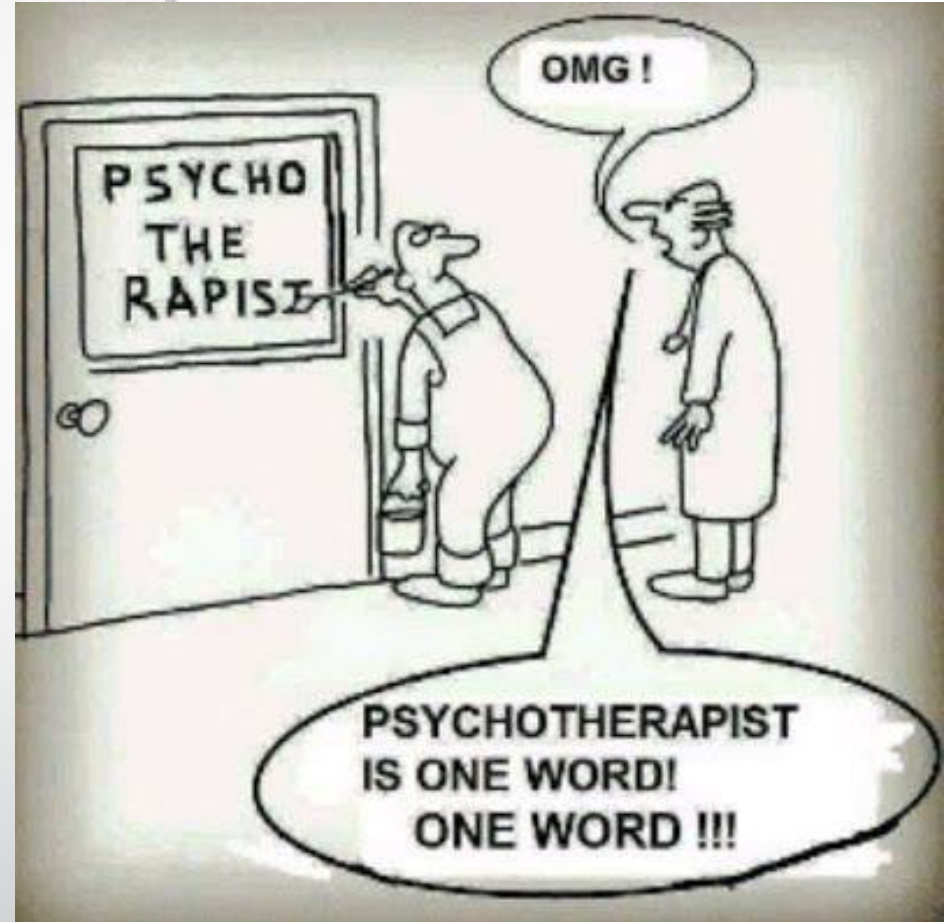
Patient is a 84 year old female from the Emergency Department. Primary history of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, congestive heart failure, high blood pressure, and atrial fibrillation. Prior surgical history of coronary artery bypass graft times 4, right total knee replacement, left total hip replacement. History of vancomycin resistant enterococcus, methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus. Will need peripheral inserted central catheter, chest x-ray, type and cross for 2 units packed red blood cells without delay.

Ah! That's better.....

Role and Function of the Legal Nurse Consultant

- Providing definition of nursing and medical terminology
- Preparing chronological chart summaries
- Providing consultation and education on the nursing process and standards of care
- Reviewing depositions of physicians, nursing staff and ancillary staff (OT, PT, RT, etc.)
- Applying current medical and nursing research.
- Reviewing medical records, including lab results and autopsy reports

A good LNC gives not only translation but **CONTEXT** to you about your cases.



From Start to Finish

- Pre-Trial
- Medical Records- Acquisition, Analysis, Summaries
- Trial
- Post-Conviction

Case
Consultation

PRE-TRIAL

- Medical Discovery
- Experts
- Deposition prep
- Consulting on recorded and live interviews



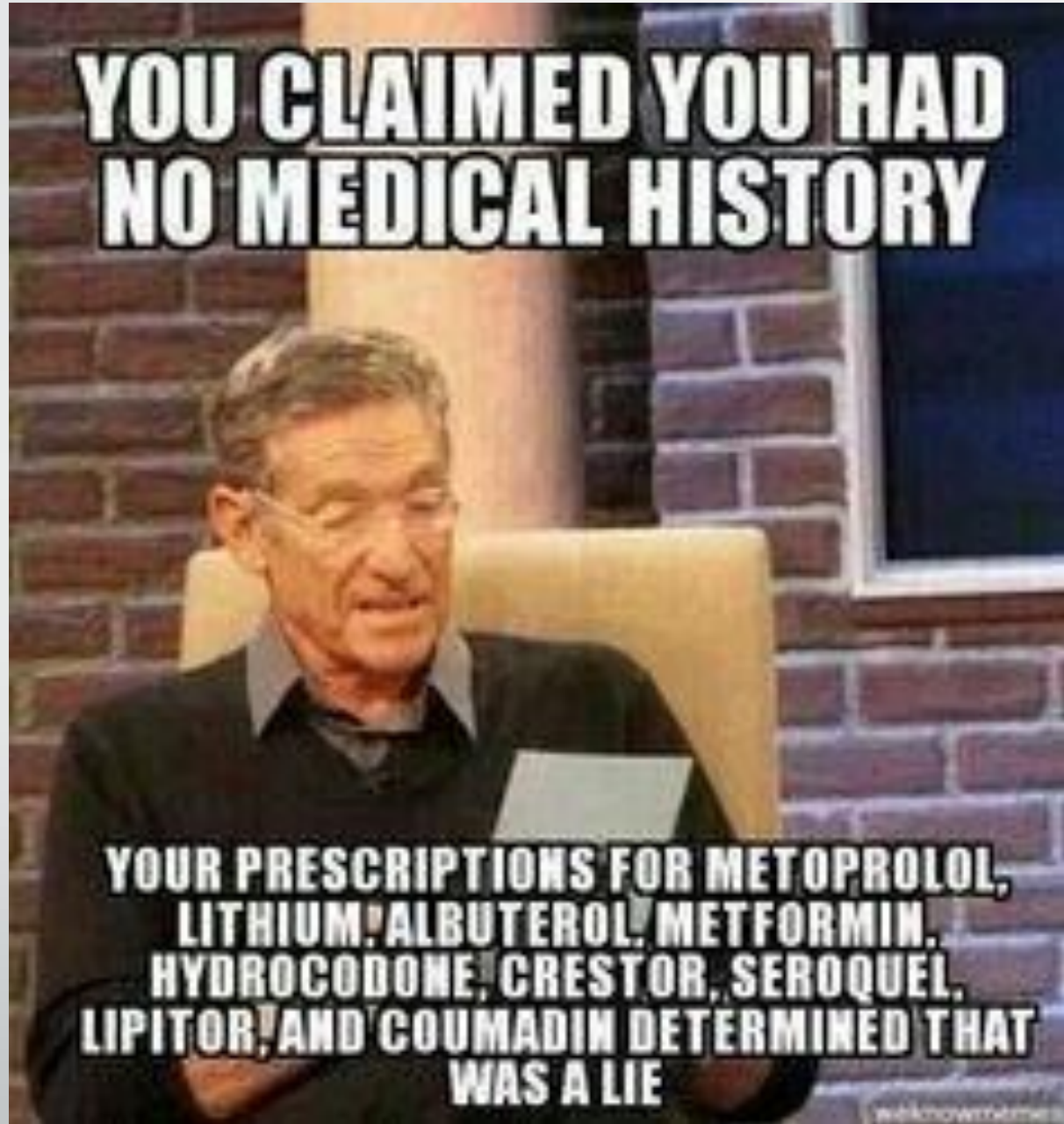
Your clients will LOVE us!



Client Interviews

- Difference between communication with nurses
- Finding additional context to the situation
- Recommendations for psychiatric evaluations
- Prior medical and familial history
- Availability of medical, socioeconomic resources
- Medical mitigation for trial prep

**YOU CLAIMED YOU HAD
NO MEDICAL HISTORY**



**YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS FOR METOPROLOL,
LITHIUM, ALBUTEROL, METFORMIN,
HYDROCODONE, CRESTOR, SEROQUEL,
LIPITOR, AND COUMADIN DETERMINED THAT
WAS A LIE**

weknowmemes

- Types of Medical Records
 - Digital, paper, audio, video
 - Pre-Hospital
 - EMS
 - Fire
 - First Responders (AKA Blue Lighters)
 - Aviation
 - Emergency Department
 - Inpatient Hospital stay
 - Rehab/SNF/Home Health
 - Psychiatric



Medical
Records



If You Didn't
DOCUMENT
YOU DIDN'T
DO
IT

- **Acquisition**

- **Ain't nobody got time for that...**
- **Knowing:**
 - **What do you actually need?**
 - **Where to look?**
 - **Who to ask?**
 - **Did you get what you asked for?**
- **How far back to go?**
- **Client Interview!**



**Medical
Records
cont.**

- **Analysis**
 - **What happened medically?**
 - **Telling a story**
 - **Documentation discrepancies**
 - **Facility compliance, Gold-standard/protocol adherence**
 - **What's missing?**



**Medical
Records
cont.**

- **Summary**
 - Chronological order of events
 - **Medical jargon vs Legalese?**
 - **What does it all mean?**
 - **Context- Lab values, medical terms, policy, acronyms, medications**
 - **What helps? What hurts?**




Medical
Records
cont.

Let's decipher some lab...

Test Requested	Results	Reference Range	Units
RETICULOCYTE COUNT (REFLEX)			
Reticulocyte Total	2.1 (HIGH)	0-1	%
Absolute Reticulocytes	33600	<60,000	/ μ L
COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT			
WBC	304.0 (HIGH)	4.0-15.5	10^3 / μ L
RBC	1.6 (LOW)	4.8-9.3	10^6 / μ L
HGB	3.1 (LOW)	12.1-20.3	g/dL
HCT	11 (LOW)	38-60	%
MCV	71	58-79	fL
MCH	19.5	19-28	pg
MCHC	28 (LOW)	30-38	%
Comment			
POLYCHROMASIA +1			
HYPOCHROMASIA +3			
NRBC	1	0-1	/100 WBC
Differential	Absolute	%	
Neutrophils	12160 (HIGH)	4	2060-10600 / μ L
Lymphocytes	285760 (HIGH)	94	690-4500 / μ L
Monocytes	6080 (HIGH)	2	0-840 / μ L
Platelet Estimate	Platelets appear decreased on blood smear.		

Autopsy

- Typical, non-specific findings in all body systems.
 - No internal bleeding noted.
 - No head Injury noted.
 - Undetermined bruising noted to forehead.
 - Fresher bruising noted to abdomen and buttocks
- Organ Weights:
 - Heart- 85gm
 - Lungs- R 107gm L 104gm
 - Liver- 590gm
 - Spleen- 100gm 
 - Brain- 1235gm
 - Kidneys- R64gm L65gm

Additional Resources

- Toxicology reports
 - Serum vs whole samples
- Police Reports
 - Field sobriety tests vs serum vs breathalyzer
 - Behavior prior to hospital and staff response
- Fire Department reports
 - Timing, exposure, etc
- Mental Health/Psychiatric Records
- Autopsy Reports
 - Who's doing them?

WHEN YOUR PATIENT



**DENIES USING DRUGS OR
ETOH**

DOWNLOAD FROM GENERATOR FROM [HTTP://WWW.MEME-GENERATOR.COM](http://www.meme-generator.com)

Case
Consultation

TRIAL

- **Medical research/articles/statistics**
- **Question prep for witnesses**
- **Translating so that you can tell your story to the jury**
- **Surprise!**

POST- CONVICTION

- Consults for probation violations
 - (RE) Assessment of clients for medical mitigating factors
 - Medications
 - Psychiatric recommendations
 - Community Resources

Case
Consultation

Conclusion

- Utilizing a LNC can help you:
 - Save time
 - Save \$\$\$
 - Hone your defense
 - Tell your story
 - Avoid unknowns
 - Give substantive mitigating factors

Questions?

Google: Handing out honorary medical degrees since 1997.



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Thank You!

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