

TO: A. M. Freedman, M.D.

DATE: January 25, 1971

FROM: Max Fink, M.D.

SUBJECT: Mandatory Consultations

I can think of so few medical situations that require a mandatory psychiatric consultation that I hesitate to list even these. Rather than subscribe to such a limited list, I would suggest a concept of recommended consultations in the following instances.

(1) Withdrawal and depressed states, particularly post-partum, post-surgery or post-trauma.

(2) Addiction syndromes, as in barbiturates, alcohol and opiates, where a threat to life is seen.

(3) Toxicomania - any severe delirium requiring restraints.

(4) Recurrent surgery without adequate pathology; and other states as "hypochondriasis" or "hysteria".

(5) Whenever the secondary diagnosis is depressive illness, schizophrenia or severe psychoneurosis, and these diagnoses may reflect contributions to the primary illness or to its management.

MF:kt