Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist

Scope of Practice: The CNS performs psychiatric evaluations, prescribes medication, and conducts regular medication management. The CNS may order labs and/or other diagnostic tests. Symptoms that may indicate a need for treatment include depression and anxiety that interfere with functioning, inattention and focusing issues, mood swings, obsessive-compulsive behaviors, and adjustment problems as a result of changes or trauma.

Undergraduate, MAT, and MEd full-time students who are referred by Earlham College counselors and meet the criteria outlined below, may be seen by the psychiatric clinical nurse specialist (CNS). Students are seen in the Earlham College Medical Services department by appointment. Students are required to have completed an intake with the Director of Counseling Services or a staff counselor to assure that they meet the criteria for short-term medical management. Students who require more care than can be delivered on a biweekly basis may be referred to an outside health care provider in the community.

The CNS will see uncomplicated students that are compliant. Students are to maintain contact with their home practitioner and must routinely meet with a therapist, either at Earlham or off-campus as a complement to medical therapy with the CNS. The CNS provides assessments and medication management as needed. Most sessions are thirty minutes, other than the initial assessment. If further evaluation or testing is recommended off campus, the student is responsible for the cost of seeing a community-based provider.

Sessions with the CNS are at no cost to the student; however, missed appointments without a 24 hour notice will result in a failed appointment fee of $25, charged to the student’s account.

Earlham Health Services is closed when classes are not in session, including fall, winter, spring, and summer breaks. No services are available during May term. No medication can be prescribed or refilled when Health Services is closed. Students must have a provider outside Medical Services for those times the college is closed.