



Thursday, November 21st, 2024  
12:00pm-1:00pm



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## **Gerald P. Koocher, Ph.D., LP, ABPP**

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**Financial Disclosure:** Dr. Koocher has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.

**Gerald P. Koocher, Ph.D., LP, ABPP** is a highly accomplished clinical psychologist who has worked in leadership roles in healthcare and education. He is currently the director of clinical and school psychology programs at Capella University. Dr. Koocher has published over 350 articles and book chapters, and has written or edited 17 books on psychology, including topics such as ethics and mental health. He is also a Senior Attending Psychologist at Children's Hospital and a Lecturer at Harvard Medical School. He has five specialty diplomas from the American Board of Professional Psychology and holds active psychology licenses in four states, as well as being a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and 12 divisions of the American Psychological Association. Dr. Koocher has held several leadership roles in the APA, including serving as president of the clinical, pediatric, and psychotherapy divisions, as well as serving as APA President in 2006.

## **HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT: THE CONUNDRUM OF MEDICAL CHILD ABUSE**



**THIS CE CREDIT FULLFILLS AN ETHICS REQUIREMENT**

### **ABSTRACT**

Medical child abuse, sometimes referred to as Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy or childhood factitious disorder, poses significant diagnostic, intervention, and ethical challenges for medical and mental health practitioners alike. Mental health practitioners working in pediatric hospitals and medical clinics must remain mindful of the health and ethical risks posed by these conditions, which are difficult to detect and treat. The surreptitious nature of the conditions and hazards they pose require an integrated medical, psychosocial, legal, and child protective response. This presentation will provide historical and clinical background on the condition along with guides and recommendations to assist in ethical approaches to detection and intervention.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Explain the history and diagnostic criteria for childhood factitious disorder.
2. Discuss the clinical presentation of the condition, preparing to recognize this condition in clinical settings.
3. Determine the ethical complexities inherent in detecting and confirming medical child abuse.
4. Plan components of ethical, medical, psychosocial, legal, and child protection resources needed to evaluate and intervene when such abuse is suspected.

**This event fulfills 1 CE credit hour towards the New York State Education Department requirement of 3 CE hours in Professional Ethics for Psychologists, Social Workers and LMHCs.**

### **REFERENCES**

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