

Definition of Geropsychiatric Nursing

The Geropsychiatric Nursing Collaborative developed the following definition of geropsychiatric nursing to serve as a basis for future discussions about preparing nurses to care for older adults with mental health concerns.

Geropsychiatric nursing (GPN) practice includes holistic support for and care of older adults and their families as they anticipate and/or experience developmental and cognitive challenges, mental health concerns and psychiatric/substance misuse disorders across a variety of health and mental health care settings. GPN practice is based on expert knowledge of normal age-related changes and common psychiatric, cognitive and co-morbid medical disorders in later life. Promotion of mental health and treatment of psychiatric/substance misuse and cognitive disorders emphasize strengths and potentials; integrate biopsychosocial, functional, spiritual, cultural, economic and environmental factors, and address stressors that affect mental health of older adults and their families.