

Geropsychiatric Nursing Key Concepts (Key words/search terms)

These key concepts are foundational to the geropsychiatric nursing competency enhancements developed by the Geropsychiatric Nursing Collaborative in 2010.

I. Assessment

- A. Normal aging: biopsychosocial theories
- B. Appropriate instruments/clinical evaluation tools
- C. Adapted assessment procedures
- D. Atypical presentations; Co-occurring illness; Psychiatric manifestations: medical conditions
- E. Common disorders
- F. Comprehensive assessments
- G. Stressors affecting mental health

II. Management

- A. Care transitions
- B. Behavioral, environmental and pharmacological interventions and communication for behaviors
- C. Pharmacotherapeutics
- D. Referrals
- E. Influences from decisional capacity, health literacy
- F. Patient/family/peer education: mental and physical health interactions
- G. Ethical/legal and socioeconomic factors

III. Approach to Older Adults

- A. Age-related adaptations
- B. Age/culturally appropriate interventions and communications
- C. Recognition of personal & societal biases
- D. Sensitivity in end-of-life care

IV. Role

- A. Promotion of safety and risk factor reduction
- B. Knowledge of geriatric mental health/illness
- C. Lifelong learning
- D. Policy/advocacy
- E. Research participation/utilization
- F. Quality improvement initiatives
- G. Interdisciplinarity
- H. Delivery systems
- I. Service barriers