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

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