



Learning Opportunities (General & Intellectual disabilities): Mental Health Placement

Aims

*The aim of this placement is to provide Student Nurses with opportunities to participate in the nursing care of individuals with mental health issues and to provide knowledge and understanding of the structure and function of the Mental Health Services-HSE West. Preceptors and all clinically based staff will support and work in partnership with Student Nurses in meeting learning opportunities. The aim of clinical practice learning is to enable students to become equipped with **knowledge, skills and attitude** to become "safe, caring, competent decision-makers willing to accept personal and professional accountability for evidence-based nursing /midwifery care" (An Bord Altranais 2003). The Student Nurse, under supervision of their preceptor should utilize research and evidence based knowledge to underpin safe and effective clinical practice thus bridging the theory-practice gap.*

Learning Opportunities

- Identify the members and briefly outline the role of the Multi-Disciplinary Team in relation to Mental Health Care.
- To gain insight into service provision and an overview of the statutory, voluntary and advocacy organisations associated with the mental health services and how to access them e.g.
 - Day Hospital
 - Acute Admission Unit
 - Day Centre
 - Community Residence
 - Crises Liaison Service
 - Mental health Ireland and Irish Advocacy Network
- Assist in the holistic nursing care of patient/service user with a mental health condition e.g. schizophrenia, depression, bipolar affective or anxiety disorder.
- Demonstrate an understanding of some of the common Medications used in the treatment of Psychiatric disorders.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of mental health problems on the individual and their family.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of voluntary and involuntary admission.
- Identify what is meant by psychiatric emergency and what immediate action is required in different situations.
- Show an appreciation of the importance of maintaining the dignity of the patient.
- Explain the importance of confidentiality in relation to patient information.
- Show an understanding of the factors which influence effective communication.
- Discuss the elements of a therapeutic environment and outline the nurse's role.
- Outline the importance of discreet observation in Mental Health settings.
- Discuss stigma and the public's perception of mental health issues