

Psychiatric Nursing Journal

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Module 6

Maya

8/21/23

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I am both excited and a little apprehensive to begin this module on psychiatric nursing. I am excited because I have always been curious about psychiatric care. I am somewhat apprehensive because I have a close family member who was attacked and injured while working at a psychiatric care facility here in Lubbock. The attack left my family member with ongoing pain that she struggles with to this day.

I personally do not have any experience with psychiatric nursing nor have I studied this part of mental health care. I have spent some time in therapy with a couple of different psychologists over the years. I found the therapy very helpful and would encourage everyone to visit a therapist if and when life gets overwhelming. I believe psychiatric care can be a vital part of an overall health regimen.

I am not really fearful or concerned about any part of the schedule, but I do think that the experience of my family member will make me be a little more cautious in the clinical setting. I realize that every situation is different, but I also know that we must always be cautious in any clinical setting. I hope that I will be fair and empathetic nurse in all of my interactions with patients and especially with those in the psychiatric setting because I am certain that they are often treated differently because their illnesses are often harder to diagnose and treat.

I hope to learn about the most common psychiatric disorders that I will encounter in the clinical setting and how to best treat them. The three questions that I would like to have answered during this module are as follows:

1. What are the most common psychiatric disorders I will encounter in a typical hospital setting and how will care differ in normal hospital setting versus a psychiatric care facility?
2. What are the most common psychiatric disorders I would encounter in a psychiatric care facility and how would I treat them?

3. What are the main differences between caring for psych versus a non-psych patient in a clinical setting?