Mental health clients deserve to be served by nurses with relevant and precise psychiatric nursing knowledge and therapeutic relationship competencies. Nurses with generalist preparation are practising in mental health settings and are working with clients with mental health issues in a variety of clinical settings.

Finding relevant clinical experience to develop clinical and professional competencies specific to psychiatric nursing is a challenge due to the need for employed nurses to continue their staff roles, health authorities to maintain stable staffing ratios, and the increasing demand for clinical experiences and preceptorships. The on-line Knowledge Transfer (KT) courses for Registered Nurses (RNs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) are designed to provide an efficient, effective and flexible method for transfer/application of pre-requisite distance education courses to professional practice. The course may also be used for continuing professional development of Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs) and to meet continuing competence needs of nurses in mental health settings with a focus on reflective practice and professional self-critique.

Assignments which require the student to apply specific psychiatric nursing competencies and concepts to clinical practice with clients are downloaded and submitted on-line then are critiqued by the psychiatric nursing instructor using detailed grading forms and e-mail feedback. The primary learning outcome is an expanded awareness and application of precise professional nursing competencies to nursing practice pertaining to any client’s mental health nursing care. The foundation of these KT courses is the application of psychiatric nursing concepts to the workplace. The quality of nursing care provided to clients with mental health concerns will improve as cohorts of KT students form communities of practice to transfer and to share their professional competencies.

Key words:

Psychiatric nursing  Clinical competencies (psychiatric nursing)
Psychiatric nursing education Professional competencies (psychiatric nursing)
Workplace education (psychiatric nursing) Therapeutic relationship competencies
On-line courses Knowledge transfer
Communities of Practice
Main theme: The on-line knowledge transfer course is an alternative to the clinical practicum in psychiatric nursing and can be provided to practising nurses with generalist preparation in the workplace to improve the care of clients with mental health concerns.

References:


