



The Mental Health (MH) nurse is a registered nurse with specialist mental health training and experience, who may work within the MH 'scope of practice'. This means that they hold either a Psychiatric Nursing or Comprehensive Nursing qualification. Comprehensive nurses holding only a BN qualification are expected to have completed a PG certificate in MH nursing.

Core Responsibilities of Mental Health Nursing

- Undertakes comprehensive assessment, ensuring corroborative information is gathered from the client, their family/significant others.
- Brings a nursing perspective to the MDT forum
- Providing holistic care and interventions based on meeting a client's individual needs, based on the principles and philosophy of recovery.
- Administers medication, engages in educating clients and their family about the medication regime, potential adverse effects and benefits.
- Undertakes systematic monitoring of side effects related to prescribed medications
- Engaging the client, and their families, in care and treatment; working with them to assess, plan, implement and evaluate programmes of care and support.
- Undertakes a systematic risk assessment and actively engages in the therapeutic management of risk
- Providing case management as needed, coordinating input from other professions, services and agencies.
- Delivering psychosocial interventions and psychological therapies, including supporting clients receiving pharmacological therapy, including medication and side effect management, and prescribing (NPs)
- Assisting people connect with mainstream activity by working with a range of community agencies.
- Practising therapeutic management of a range of challenging situations, including aggression, violence and self-harm. Creating and sustaining the therapeutic environment in the inpatient setting
- Adopting a health promotion focus
- Advocating for clients and supporting their access to independent advocacy services
- Provides peer support
- Undertakes and provides clinical supervision to maintain ethical delivery of nursing practice
- Engages in clinical teaching with clients and students