

HOW WE SPECIALIZE IN SKILLED VISITING NURSING PSYCHIATRIC CARE

When a visiting nursing service references that they specialize in caring for those clients with mental illness, they should be able to **clearly** demonstrate that their qualifications are specifically targeted to the unique and challenging needs of this population. Simply having a few RN's on staff with psychiatric experience does not, in and of itself, meet that threshold.

- **Psychiatric Nursing:** Within the first year of hire, all of our RN's attend a 40 hour CEU program geared specifically towards psychiatric nursing. This intense training helps our **staff develop skills in the application of the nursing process for treating psychiatric disorders.** The training prepares all of our RN's to sit for the board certification exam in psychiatric nursing. There is NO other company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that provides this level of specialized training to help care for these patients.
- **CPI- Crisis Prevention Intervention Certification** Our entire staff is certified in CPI, a widely used training method in the mental health field. It is a behavior recognition and management training technique designed specifically for those who work with challenging, unstable, or unpredictable individuals who are in a state of crisis. CPI provides proven, successful, and effective behavior management and de-escalation skills and proven techniques to help de-escalate, calm and stabilize those in crisis.
- **Comprehensive Psychiatric and Medical Assessments** Our staff practices this comprehensive method of assessments during each home visit. Their evaluation starts immediately upon arrival and ends as they depart. They look at the "whole" picture and review a client's ADL's, their general living conditions, their medication and appointment compliance, diet, exercise, sleep, level of functionality, etc.
- Our in house education department provides our staff with **regular evidence based psychiatric training** to keep them informed on current treatment modalities. These training sessions are provided by specialized guest speakers, LICSW's, prominent local psychiatrists and other related specialists.
- **Traditional Medical Patients** can also benefit greatly from our specialized care. Due to changes in their quality of life, their decreased mobility and the need to rely on others for assistance, clients can often experience acute depression upon their arrival home. Our staff is trained to quickly identify changes in mental status that may arise from the difficulties of transitioning home. As a result, we can address and resolve these issues before they escalate into major problems.
- We are not just skilled care providers, we are a **patient's advocate**; communicating with community resources including their doctors and treatment team helps us to support their specific needs and wants. Our staff goes as far as dressing in street clothes instead of traditional medical attire for patient's privacy and helping to establish normalcy.
- Medication management & education: We **focus on independence.** Our goal through education is to have patients live as independently as they can. We teach patients about their specific medications and how they relate to the disease process. This enables us to promote independent living.
- **70+%** of our referred clients suffer from mental illness