Definition of Geropsychiatric Nursing

The Geropsychiatric Nursing Collaborative developed the following definition of geropsychiatric nursing to serve as a basis for future discussions about preparing nurses to care for older adults with mental health concerns.

*Geropsychiatric nursing (GPN)* practice includes holistic support for and care of older adults and their families as they anticipate and/or experience developmental and cognitive challenges, mental health concerns and psychiatric/substance misuse disorders across a variety of health and mental health care settings. GPN practice is based on expert knowledge of normal age-related changes and common psychiatric, cognitive and co-morbid medical disorders in later life. Promotion of mental health and treatment of psychiatric/substance misuse and cognitive disorders emphasize strengths and potentials; integrate biopsychosocial, functional, spiritual, cultural, economic and environmental factors, and address stressors that affect mental health of older adults and their families.