

CERTIFICATE IN NURSING HOME PRACTICE FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Overview and Rationale

The number of older adults residing in nursing homes and other long term care settings is rising, quickly, and is projected to grow faster than any other cohort group in U.S. history. With this demographic shift comes a unique opening for more skilled, dedicated professionals. This Certificate Program will be available to mental health practitioners who want to expand their practices in this specialty area, and demonstrate to health care professionals, public and private insurance plans, and federal health care policy regulators that they are Certified as a Behavioral Health Professional for Nursing Home Practice.

Upon completing this program, graduates will be able to assess and treat patients according to a Best Practices model, document and bill for services according to current standards, and comfortably and professionally work with long term care staff in the delivery of behavioral health services in a collaborative, integrated manner

Board Certification

This Certification for Nursing Home Practice is sought from the American Board of Behavioral Healthcare Practice, a certifying entity that recognizes experiences and specialty skills of behavioral health professionals.

Curriculum

This Certificate Program is comprised of 36 hours of coursework. There are 17 1-2 hour courses, and four PowerPoint slide presentations, covering a range of subjects relevant to this practice area. The courses are grouped into the following topics: general knowledge of aging and professional work with older adults, working in the nursing home environment, psychological assessment and intervention, medical terminology, and support for families. This training is consistent with the Pikes Peak Model for Training in Professional Geropsychology (an outcome of the National Conference in Colorado Springs in 2006 that focused on the formulation of a training model) and the recommendations of the Council of Professional Geropsychology Training Programs (CoPGTP). Additional training resources may be found at the CoPGTP website, www.copgtp.org.

Courses

Sensory Losses in Older Adults
Ethical Dilemmas in LTC: Guidance for Skilled Nursing Staff
Understanding Medical Necessity and Documenting Mental Health Services
Documenting Progress in Psychotherapy with Older Adults
Dementia, Depression and Delirium: How they are Alike and How They are Different
Use and Benefits of Health and Behavior Codes in LTC for Psychologists
Behavior Management, Prevention of Aggressive Behavior, and De-escalation Techniques
Blurred Lines between Psychological and Medical Disorders in Older Adults
A Comprehensive Approach to Establishing a Mental Health Practice in LTC Settings
Pain Management: Clinical Implications and Non-pharmacological Interventions
Medical Terminology
Pharmacology in Geriatrics
Interpreting Lab Reports and Panels
The Benefits of Collaboration between Behavioral Health and Rehabilitation in LTC
We Just Put Mom in a Nursing Home: Now What?
Families Facing Alzheimer's Disease: Reading and Reacting to Your Loved One
Nursing Home Placement and End of Life Decisions: Help for Families
Ageing and Mental Health: Themes in Psychological Treatment - PPT
The Nursing Home Work Environment: How SNF's Operate and How to Market Services - PPT
Clinical Issues: Assessment and Treatment Approaches with Older Adults - PPT
Reimbursement: CPT Codes, Billing, Diagnoses, and Medicare Policy - PPT

Those with a PPT designation are a series of PowerPoint slides. CE credit is available for psychologists, clinical social workers, and other health care professionals.

Program Developers

This program was developed from a collaboration between the National Alliance of Professional Psychology Providers ("NAPPP") and Concept Healthcare, LLC. NAPPP, (<http://nappp.org/>) whose mission is to promote and advocate for the clinical practice of psychology, is an association of professional psychologists dedicated to promoting quality psychological practice within an effective and caring mental health system. Joseph M. Casciani, PhD, is the founder and President of Concept Healthcare, and has a 30-year career in the field of clinical geropsychology. He was awarded the first contract from the California Department of Aging in 1982 to develop training manuals and curricula for the state's long term care facilities on aging and mental health topics. Subsequently, he became the co-founder and president of a multi-state group provider of mental health services in LTC settings. For 16 years, he was responsible for program development and the delivery of clinical services to patients in over 1,000 facilities, in eight states. Dr. Casciani has long recognized the shortage of mental health professionals

trained to work with older adults. He began Concept Healthcare in 2007 with the goal of reaching out to health care professionals who wanted training and education to be better prepared to work with this burgeoning age group, and to raise the importance of behavioral health approaches for caregivers.