

## Schizophrenia Competency

Name:	Role:
Base:	Date:

**Competency Statement:** The participant demonstrates clinical knowledge and skill in mental health nursing without assistance and/or direct supervision (at level 3 - see level descriptors). Assessment in practice must be by a Registered Nurse who can demonstrate competence at level 4 or above.

Performance Criteria	Assessment Method	Answers
The participant will be able to:		
<b>1. Demonstrate knowledge and skill in mental health nursing</b>		
a) Identify the core (positive and negative) symptoms of schizophrenia; the minimum time frame required for diagnosis; and different subtypes of the disorder	Questioning	
b) Conduct an assessment of a patient's mental health using a recognised and appropriate healthcare tool (e.g. the Mental State Exam – the MSE)	Observation / Questioning	
c) Identify the four different categories of risk assessment that should be applied to all patients with a diagnosis of schizophrenia; and give examples from practice	Questioning	
d) Demonstrate knowledge of the physical, mental and other differential diagnoses for patients who present with psychosis	Questioning	
e) Demonstrate competency in taking a comprehensive, contemporary and holistic patient history	Observation / Questioning	
f) Demonstrate knowledge of the other health and social care services and/or individuals who may also work with patients who have a diagnosis of schizophrenia; and how to contact them/refer patients to their services	Observation / Questioning	
<b>2. Demonstrate knowledge and skill of medication administration- Oral Therapies</b>		
a) Identify the two main types of oral antipsychotic medication; describe how they work; and give examples of both types of drug	Questioning	

Performance Criteria	Assessment Method	Answers
b) Demonstrate knowledge of safe therapeutic doses of common oral antipsychotic drugs; alongside interactions, contra-indications and side effects	Questioning	
c) Administer or supervise administration of prescribed oral antipsychotic medication; and assess patient concordance	Observation / Questioning	
d) Demonstrate awareness of the side effects that patients may experience with oral antipsychotic medication; and any physical health monitoring/intervention that may be required	Observation / Questioning	
e) Ensure patients with schizophrenia understand why it is important to take oral antipsychotic medication; recognise common side-effects; and how to report them	Observation / Questioning	
<b>3. Demonstrate knowledge and skill of medication administration - IM therapies</b>		
a) Identify the two main types of IM antipsychotic medication; describe how they work; and give examples of both types of drug	Questioning	
b) Demonstrate knowledge of safe therapeutic doses of common IM antipsychotic drugs; alongside interactions, contraindications and side effects	Questioning	
c) Administer or supervise administration of prescribed IM antipsychotic medication; and assess patient concordance	Observation / Questioning	
d) Demonstrate awareness of the side effects that patients may experience with IM antipsychotic medication; and any physical health monitoring/intervention that may be required	Observation / Questioning	
e) Ensure patients with schizophrenia understand why it is important to take IM antipsychotic medication; recognise common side-effects; and how to report them	Observation / Questioning	

Performance Criteria	Assessment Method	Answers
<b>4. Demonstrate knowledge and skill in managing patient's physical health</b>		
a) Demonstrate competency in undertaking and recording a full set of physical health observations with a patient who has been prescribed antipsychotic medication (including Clozapine); and describe how often these observations should be carried out	Observation / Questioning	
b) Describe and initiate any appropriate physical health investigations that may arise from criteria 4a.	Observation / Questioning	
c) Describe how antipsychotic medication can affect the physical health of patients (in the short term); and what health conditions it can predispose patients to develop later in their life (longer-term)	Questioning	
d) Describe why it is important to monitor the food and fluid intake of a patient with schizophrenia and/or who is prescribed antipsychotic medication; and demonstrate how this should be completed appropriately	Observation / Questioning	
e) Describe why it is important to assess and monitor the weight of a patient with schizophrenia and/or who is prescribed antipsychotic medication; and demonstrate how this should be completed appropriately	Observation / Questioning	
f) Describe why it is important to assess and monitor the smoking behaviour of patients who are prescribed antipsychotic medications (including Clozapine); and demonstrate how this should be completed appropriately	Observation / Questioning	
<b>5. Demonstrate knowledge and skill in promoting self-care</b>		
a) Demonstrate the ability to assess a patient diagnosed with schizophrenia regarding their ability to self-care and complete activities of daily living (ADLs)	Observation / Questioning	
b) Demonstrate the ability to direct patients towards information and support that will encourage informed decision-making, living independently and managing life events	Observation / Questioning	

Performance Criteria	Assessment Method	Answers
c) Demonstrate the ability to support a patient with schizophrenia in setting realistic goals and supporting them in achieving those goals – giving examples from practice	Observation / Questioning	
<b>5. Demonstrate knowledge and skill in caring for patients with alcohol / substance misuse</b>		
a) Demonstrate competency in assessing and recording any alcohol and/or substance misuse with a patient who has been diagnosed with schizophrenia; and discuss how this could affect the patient's mental state/presentation – give examples from practice	Observation / Questioning	
b) Describe any contraindications, side effects and interactions that alcohol and/or substance misuse may have with antipsychotic medications that patients may have been prescribed – give examples from practice	Questioning	

I confirm that I have assessed the above named Registered Nurse and can verify that he/she demonstrates competency in the schizophrenia care pathway, patient assessment, management and care standards:

Assessor's Name:	Base:
Signature:	Date:

Review Dates:	Competent Yes / No	RGN / RMN Signature	Verifier signature	Comments