

APA Official Actions

Position Statement on the Role of the Psychiatrist in Nursing Facilities

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Issue:

The number of nursing home residents has been rising, which reflects the increasing number of older adults in the U.S. Along with medical disorders, psychiatric disorders like neurocognitive disorders, delirium, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, and psychosis are prevalent among residents in nursing homes.^{1,2} Psychotropic polypharmacy is also common in nursing home residents. Thus, psychiatrists play an important role in managing and improving the mental health outcomes of nursing home residents with psychiatric disorders.³

APA Position:

There is a high prevalence of mental illness and neurocognitive disorders among residents of nursing homes who need access to expert psychiatric care. The best outcomes, including prevention of hospitalization come from utilization of psychiatrists with up to date and continuing education in geriatric psychiatry. More psychiatrists with geriatric expertise are needed to meet the rising demand for mental health care of residents in nursing homes.

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Collaborators: Council on Quality Care

References:

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