Week 1 discussion

* Review practice agreements in your state.
* Identify whether your state requires physician collaboration or supervision for nurse practitioners, and if so, what those requirements are.
* Research the following:
  + How do you get certified and licensed as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) in your state?
  + What is the application process for certification in your state?
  + What is your state’s board of nursing website?
  + How does your state define the scope of practice of a nurse practitioner?
  + What is included in your state practice agreement?
  + How do you get a DEA license?
  + Does your state have a prescription monitoring program (PMP)?
  + How does your state describe a nurse practitioner’s controlled-substance prescriptive authority, and what nurse practitioner drug schedules are nurse practitioners authorized to prescribe?

BY DAY 3 OF WEEK 1

**Post** a summary of your findings on your state based on the questions listed above. Explain the types of regulations that exist and the barriers that may impact nurse practitioner independent practice in your state. Be specific. Also, describe what surprised you from your research.

Upload a copy of your discussion writing to the draft Turnitin for plagiarism check.  Your faculty holds the academic freedom to not accept your work and grade at a zero if your work is not uploaded as a draft submission to Turnitin as instructed.

**Read** a selection of your colleagues’ responses.

Week 2 assignment 1

Insurance coding and billing is complex, but it boils down to how to accurately apply a code, or CPT (current procedural terminology), to the service that you provided. The payer then reimburses the service at a certain rate. As a provider, you will have to understand what codes to use and what documentation is necessary to support coding.

For this Assignment, you will review evaluation and management (E/M) documentation for a patient and perform a crosswalk of codes from *DSM-5-TR* to ICD-10.

RESOURCES

Be sure to review the Learning Resources before completing this activity.   
Click the weekly resources link to access the resources.

[**WEEKLY RESOURCES**](https://waldenu.instructure.com/courses/107757/modules/items/3883656)

TO PREPARE

* Review this week’s Learning Resources on coding, billing, reimbursement.
* Review the E/M patient case scenario provided.

THE ASSIGNMENT

* Assign *DSM-5-TR* and ICD-10 codes to services based upon the patient case scenario.

Then, in 1–2 pages address the following. You may add your narrative answers to these questions to the bottom of the case scenario document and submit altogether as one document.

* Explain what pertinent information, generally, is required in documentation to support *DSM-5-TR* and ICD-10 coding.
* Explain what pertinent documentation is missing from the case scenario, and what other information would be helpful to narrow your coding and billing options.
* Finally, explain how to improve documentation to support coding and billing for maximum reimbursement.

Week 2 assignment 2

STUDY PLAN

[](https://cdn-media.waldenu.edu/2dett4d/Walden/Canvas/Getty/1920x938/GettyLicense_624695614.jpg)Can you imagine an athlete deciding to run a marathon without training for the event? Most ambitious people who have set this goal will follow a specific training plan that will allow them to feel confident and prepared on the big day. Similarly, if you want to feel confident and prepared for your certification exam, you should create and follow a plan that will thoroughly prepare you for success.

In this Assignment, you will review the study plan that you developed in NRNP 6665, and revise your plan as necessary, which will serve as the road map for you to follow to attain your certification.

RESOURCES

Be sure to review the Learning Resources before completing this activity.   
Click the weekly resources link to access the resources.

[**WEEKLY RESOURCES**](https://waldenu.instructure.com/courses/107757/modules/items/3883656)

TO PREPARE

* Reflect on the study plan you created in NRNP 6665. Did you accomplish your SMART goals? What areas of focus still present opportunities for growth?

THE ASSIGNMENT

* Revise your study plan summarizing your current strengths and opportunities for improvement.
* Develop 3–4 new SMART goals for this quarter and the tasks you need to complete to accomplish each goal. Include a timetable for accomplishing them and a description of how you will measure your progress.
* Describe resources you would use to accomplish your goals and tasks, such as ways to participate in a study group or review course, mnemonics and other mental strategies, and print or online resources you could use to study.

Week 3 assignment

FOCUSED SOAP NOTE FOR ANXIETY, PTSD, AND OCD

[](https://cdn-media.waldenu.edu/2dett4d/Walden/Canvas/Adobe/1920x938/AdobeStock_264038381.jpg)

In assessing patients with anxiety, obsessive-compulsive, and trauma and stressor-related disorders, you will continue the practice of looking to understand chief symptomology in order to develop a diagnosis. With a differential diagnosis in mind, you can then move to a treatment and follow-up plan that may involve both psychopharmacologic and psychotherapeutic approaches.

In this Assignment, you use a case study to develop a focused SOAP note based on evidence-based approaches.

RESOURCES

Be sure to review the Learning Resources before completing this activity.   
Click the weekly resources link to access the resources.

[**WEEKLY RESOURCES**](https://waldenu.instructure.com/courses/107757/modules/items/3883698)

TO PREPARE

* Review this week’s Learning Resources. Consider the insights they provide about assessing and diagnosing anxiety, obsessive compulsive, and trauma-related disorders.
* Review the Focused SOAP Note template, which you will use to complete this Assignment. There is also a Focused SOAP Note Exemplar provided as a guide for Assignment expectations.
* Review the video, *Case Study: Dev Cordoba*. You will use this case as the basis of this Assignment. In this video, a Walden faculty member is assessing a mock patient. The patient will be represented onscreen as an avatar.
* Consider what history would be necessary to collect from this patient.
* Consider what interview questions you would need to ask this patient.

THE ASSIGNMENT

Develop a Focused SOAP Note, including your differential diagnosis and critical-thinking process to formulate a primary diagnosis. Incorporate the following into your responses in the template:

* **Subjective:**What details did the patient provide regarding their chief complaint and symptomology to derive your differential diagnosis? What is the duration and severity of their symptoms? How are their symptoms impacting their functioning in life?
* **Objective:**What observations did you make during the psychiatric assessment?
* **Assessment:** Discuss the patient’s mental status examination results. What were your differential diagnoses? Provide a minimum of three possible diagnoses with supporting evidence, listed in order from highest priority to lowest priority. Compare the *DSM-5-TR* diagnostic criteria for each differential diagnosis and explain what *DSM-5*-TR criteria rules out the differential diagnosis to find an accurate diagnosis. Explain the critical-thinking process that led you to the primary diagnosis you selected. Include pertinent positives and pertinent negatives for the specific patient case.
* **Plan:** What is your plan for psychotherapy? What is your plan for treatment and management, including alternative therapies? Include pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic treatments, alternative therapies, and follow-up parameters, as well as a rationale for this treatment and management plan. Also incorporate one health promotion activity and one patient education strategy.
* **Reflection notes:**What would you do differently with this patient if you could conduct the session again? Discuss what your next intervention would be if you could follow up with this patient. Also include in your reflection a discussion related to legal/ethical considerations (demonstrate critical thinking beyond confidentiality and consent for treatment!), health promotion, and disease prevention, taking into consideration patient factors (such as age, ethnic group, etc.), PMH, and other risk factors (e.g., socioeconomic, cultural background, etc.).
* Provide at least three evidence-based, peer-reviewed journal articles or evidenced-based guidelines that relate to this case to support your diagnostics and differential diagnoses. Be sure they are current (no more than 5 years old).

Week 5 assignment

FOCUSED SOAP NOTE FOR SCHIZOPHRENIA SPECTRUM, OTHER PSYCHOTIC, AND MEDICATION-INDUCED MOVEMENT DISORDERS

[](https://cdn-media.waldenu.edu/2dett4d/Walden/Canvas/Getty/OrigImage-LgRendition/GettyLicense_172588621.jpg)

Psychotic disorders change one’s sense of reality and cause abnormal thinking and perception. Patients presenting with psychotic disorders may suffer from delusions or hallucinations or may display negative symptoms such as lack of emotion or withdraw from social situations or relationships. Symptoms of medication-induced movement disorders can be mild or lethal and can include, for example, tremors, dystonic reactions, or serotonin syndrome.

For this Assignment, you will complete a focused SOAP note for a patient in a case study who has either a schizophrenia spectrum, other psychotic, or medication-induced movement disorder.

RESOURCES

Be sure to review the Learning Resources before completing this activity.   
Click the weekly resources link to access the resources.

[**WEEKLY RESOURCES**](https://waldenu.instructure.com/courses/107757/modules/items/3883752)

TO PREPARE

* Review the Focused SOAP Note template, which you will use to complete this Assignment. There is also a Focused SOAP Note Exemplar provided as a guide for Assignment expectations.
* Review the video, *Case Study: Sherman Tremaine*. You will use this case as the basis of this Assignment. In this video, a Walden faculty member is assessing a mock patient. The patient will be represented onscreen as an avatar.
* Consider what history would be necessary to collect from this patient.
* Consider what interview questions you would need to ask this patient.

THE ASSIGNMENT

Develop a focused SOAP note, including your differential diagnosis and critical-thinking process to formulate a primary diagnosis. Incorporate the following into your responses in the template:

* **Subjective:**What details did the patient provide regarding their chief complaint and symptomology to derive your differential diagnosis? What is the duration and severity of their symptoms? How are their symptoms impacting their functioning in life?
* **Objective:**What observations did you make during the psychiatric assessment?
* **Assessment:** Discuss the patient’s mental status examination results. What were your differential diagnoses? Provide a minimum of three possible diagnoses with supporting evidence, and list them in order from highest priority to lowest priority. Compare the *DSM-5-TR* diagnostic criteria for each differential diagnosis and explain what *DSM-5-TR* criteria rules out the differential diagnosis to find an accurate diagnosis. Explain the critical-thinking process that led you to the primary diagnosis you selected. Include pertinent positives and pertinent negatives for the specific patient case.
* **Plan:** What is your plan for psychotherapy? What is your plan for treatment and management, including alternative therapies? Include pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic treatments, alternative therapies, and follow-up parameters, as well as a rationale for this treatment and management plan. Also incorporate one health promotion activity and one patient education strategy.
* **Reflection notes:** What would you do differently with this patient if you could conduct the session again? Discuss what your next intervention would be if you were able to follow up with this patient. Also include in your reflection a discussion related to legal/ethical considerations (demonstrate critical thinking beyond confidentiality and consent for treatment!), health promotion, and disease prevention, taking into consideration patient factors (such as age, ethnic group, etc.), PMH, and other risk factors (e.g., socioeconomic, cultural background, etc.).
* Provide at least three evidence-based, peer-reviewed journal articles or evidenced-based guidelines that relate to this case to support your diagnostics and differential diagnoses. Be sure they are current (no more than 5 years old).

Week 7 assignment

CONTROVERSY ASSOCIATED WITH PERSONALITY AND PARAPHILIC DISORDERS

[[](https://cdn-media.waldenu.edu/2dett4d/Walden/Canvas/Getty/1920x938/GettyLicense_451087687.jpg)](https://cdn-media.waldenu.edu/2dett4d/Walden/Canvas/Getty/1920x938/GettyLicense_451087687.jpg)

Between 10% and 20% of the population experience personality disorders. They are difficult to treat as individuals with personality disorders are less likely to seek help than individuals with other mental health disorders. Treatment can be challenging as they do not see their symptoms as painful to themselves or others.

Paraphilic disorders are far more common in men than in women, and generally quite chronic, lasting at least two years. Treatment of these disorders usually involves both psychotherapeutic and pharmacologic treatments.

In this Assignment, you will explore personality and paraphilic disorders in greater detail. You will research potentially controversial elements of the diagnosis and/or treatment and explain ethical and legal considerations when working with these disorders.

TO PREPARE

* Review this week’s Learning Resources and consider the insights they provide on assessing, diagnosing, and treating personality and paraphilic disorders.
* Select a specific personality or paraphilic disorder from the *DSM-5-TR*to use for this Assignment.
* Use the Walden Library to investigate your chosen disorder further, including controversial aspects of the disorder, maintaining the therapeutic relationship, and ethical and legal considerations.

RESOURCES

Be sure to review the Learning Resources before completing this activity.   
Click the weekly resources link to access the resources.

[**WEEKLY RESOURCES**](https://waldenu.instructure.com/courses/107757/modules/items/3883799)

THE ASSIGNMENT

In 2–3 pages:

* Explain the controversy that surrounds your selected disorder.
* Explain your professional beliefs about this disorder, supporting your rationale with at least three scholarly references from the literature.
* Explain strategies for maintaining the therapeutic relationship with a patient that may present with this disorder.
* Finally, explain ethical and legal considerations related to this disorder that you need to bring to your practice and why they are important.

Week 8 assignment

LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES RELATED TO PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCIES

[](https://cdn-media.waldenu.edu/2dett4d/Walden/Canvas/Getty/OrigImage-LgRendition/GettyLicense_502180564.jpg)

The diagnosis of psychiatric emergencies can include a wide range of problems—from serious drug reactions to abuse and suicidal ideation/behaviors. Regardless of care setting, the PMHNP must know how to address emergencies, coordinate care with other members of the health care team and law enforcement officials (when indicated), and effectively communicate with family members who are often overwhelmed in emergency situations. In their role, PMHNPs can ensure a smooth transition from emergency mental health care to follow-up care, and also bridge the physical–mental health divide in healthcare.

In this week’s Assignment, you explore legal and ethical issues surrounding psychiatric emergencies, and identify evidence-based suicide and violence risk assessments.

TO PREPARE

* Review this week’s Learning Resources and consider the insights they provide about psychiatric emergencies and the ethical and legal issues surrounding these events.

RESOURCES

Be sure to review the Learning Resources before completing this activity.   
Click the weekly resources link to access the resources.

[**WEEKLY RESOURCES**](https://waldenu.instructure.com/courses/107757/modules/items/3883825)

THE ASSIGNMENT

In 2–3 pages, address the following:

* Explain your state laws for involuntary psychiatric holds for child and adult psychiatric emergencies. Include who can hold a patient and for how long, who can release the emergency hold, and who can pick up the patient after a hold is released.
* Explain the differences among emergency hospitalization for evaluation/psychiatric hold, inpatient commitment, and outpatient commitment in your state.
* Explain the difference between capacity and competency in mental health contexts.
* Select one of the following topics, and explain one legal issue and one ethical issue related to this topic that may apply within the context of treating psychiatric emergencies: patient autonomy, EMTALA, confidentiality, HIPAA privacy rule, HIPAA security rule, protected information, legal gun ownership, career obstacles (security clearances/background checks), and payer source.
* Identify one evidence-based suicide risk assessment that you could use to screen patients.
* Identify one evidence-based violence risk assessment that you could use to screen patients.

Week 9 discussion

PRESCRIBING FOR OLDER ADULTS AND PREGNANT WOMEN

[](https://cdn-media.waldenu.edu/2dett4d/Walden/Canvas/Getty/OrigImage-LgRendition/GettyLicense_672153331.jpg)

After assessing and diagnosing a patient, PMHNPs must take into consideration special characteristics of the patient before determining an appropriate course of treatment. For pharmacological treatments that are not FDA-approved for a particular use or population, off-label use may be considered when the potential benefits could outweigh the risks.

In this Discussion, you will investigate a specific disorder and determine potential appropriate treatments for when it occurs in an older adult or pregnant woman.

RESOURCES

Be sure to review the Learning Resources before completing this activity.   
Click the weekly resources link to access the resources.

[**WEEKLY RESOURCES**](https://waldenu.instructure.com/courses/107757/modules/items/3883846)

TO PREPARE:

* Choose one of the two following specific populations: either pregnant women or older adults. Then, select a specific disorder from the *DSM-5-TR*to use.
* Use the Walden Library to research evidence-based treatments for your selected disorder in your selected population (either older adults or pregnant women). You will need to recommend one FDA-approved drug, one non-FDA-approved “off-label” drug, and one nonpharmacological intervention for treating the disorder in that population.

BY DAY 3 OF WEEK 9

* Recommend one FDA-approved drug, one off-label drug, and one nonpharmacological intervention for treating your chosen disorder in older adults or pregnant women.
* Explain the risk assessment you would use to inform your treatment decision  making. What are the risks and benefits of the FDA-approved medicine? What are the risks and benefits of the off-label drug?
* Explain whether clinical practice guidelines exist for this disorder, and if so, use them to justify your recommendations. If not, explain what information you would need to take into consideration.
* Support your reasoning with at least three current, credible scholarly resources, one each on the FDA-approved drug, the off-label, and a nonpharmacological intervention for the disorder.

Upload a copy of your discussion writing to the draft Turnitin for plagiarism check.  Your faculty holds the academic freedom to not accept your work and grade at a zero if your work is not uploaded as a draft submission to Turnitin as instructed.

**Read** a selection of your colleagues’ responses.

Week 10 assignment 1

NURSE PRACTITIONER PROFESSIONAL CAREER PLANNER

[](https://cdn-media.waldenu.edu/2dett4d/Walden/Canvas/Getty/1920x938/GettyLicense_136597343.jpg)

As you approach the end of your Master of Science in Nursing program and prepare for a career as a nurse practitioner, you will want to create a cover letter, resume, and portfolio that best represent your knowledge, skills, and abilities as a professional in the field of nursing.

For this Assignment, you will create a Career Planner, which includes these elements, that you can use as you pursue your next professional role.

TO PREPARE

* Review the Career Planner Guide. This document contains the requirements for the Assignment as well as resources to consult.
* Seek out other resources on cover letters, resumes, and other professional resources, as needed. The Walden University Career Planning and Development site has information on many topics of relevance

RESOURCES

Be sure to review the Learning Resources before completing this activity.   
Click the weekly resources link to access the resources.

[**WEEKLY RESOURCES**](https://waldenu.instructure.com/courses/107757/modules/items/3883869)

THE ASSIGNMENT

Develop a cover letter, resume, philosophy statement, and other professional resources that meet the requirements outlined in the Career Planner Guide.

BY DAY 7 OF WEEK 10

**Submit**your Career Planner.

Week 10 assignment 2

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF NURSE PRACTITIONER FACULTIES (NONPF) COMPETENCIES

The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) has determined nine broad areas of core competence that apply to all nurse practitioners, regardless of specialty or patient population focus. NONPF created the first set of Nurse Practitioner Competencies in 1990; the most recent updates were incorporated in 2017. This course was designed to prepare you to synthesize knowledge gained throughout the program and to apply each of the nine core competencies within your selected areas of practice and your representative communities.

The nine areas of competency are:

* Scientific Foundations
* Leadership
* Quality
* Practice Inquiry
* Technology and Information Literacy
* Policy
* Health Delivery System
* Ethics
* Independent Practice

TO PREPARE

* Review this week’s Learning Resources, focusing on the NONPF Core Competencies Content.

RESOURCES

Be sure to review the Learning Resources before completing this activity.   
Click the weekly resources link to access the resources.

[**WEEKLY RESOURCES**](https://waldenu.instructure.com/courses/107757/modules/items/3883869)

THE ASSIGNMENT

For each of the nine NONPF competencies, write one paragraph explaining how the program has prepared you to meet the competency (for a total of at least nine paragraphs). Then, propose how you plan to engage in social change in your community as a nurse practitioner. Finally, describe 1–2 legislative and/or advocacy activities in which your state nurse practitioner organization(s) are involved. Be specific and provide examples.