Week 2 discussion

THE PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION AND EVIDENCE-BASED RATING SCALES

[](https://cdn-media.waldenu.edu/2dett4d/Walden/Canvas/Getty/1920x938/GettyLicense_459381993.jpg)Assessment tools have two primary purposes: 1) to measure illness and diagnose clients, and 2) to measure a client’s response to treatment. Often, you will find that multiple assessment tools are designed to measure the same condition or response. Not all tools, however, are appropriate for use in all clinical situations. You must consider the strengths and weaknesses of each tool to select the appropriate assessment tool for your client. For this Discussion, as you examine the assessment tool assigned to you by the Course Instructor, consider its use in psychotherapy.

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/120242/modules/items/4454836)

TO PREPARE:

* Review this week's Learning Resources and reflect on the insights they provide regarding psychiatric assessment and diagnosis.
* Consider the elements of the psychiatric interview, history, and examination.
* Consider the assessment tool assigned to you by the Course Instructor.

BY DAY 3 OF WEEK 2

**Post** a brief explanation of three important components of the psychiatric interview and why you consider these elements important. Explain the psychometric properties of the rating scale you were assigned. Explain when it is appropriate to use this rating scale with clients during the psychiatric interview and how the scale is helpful to a nurse practitioner’s psychiatric assessment. Support your approach with evidence-based literature.

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 3 assignment

ASSESSING AND DIAGNOSING PATIENTS WITH MOOD DISORDERS

[](https://cdn-media.waldenu.edu/2dett4d/Walden/Canvas/Getty/1920x938/GettyLicense_504530514.jpg)Accurately diagnosing depressive disorders can be challenging given their periodic and, at times, cyclic nature. Some of these disorders occur in response to stressors and, depending on the cultural history of the client, may affect their decision to seek treatment. Bipolar disorders can also be difficult to properly diagnose. While clients with a bipolar or related disorder will likely have to contend with the disorder indefinitely, many find that the use of medication and evidence-based treatments have favorable outcomes.

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/120242/modules/items/4454896)

TO PREPARE:

* Review this week’s Learning Resources. Consider the insights they provide about assessing and diagnosing mood disorders.
* Download the Comprehensive Psychiatric Evaluation Template, which you will use to complete this Assignment. Also review the Comprehensive Psychiatric Evaluation Exemplar to see an example of a completed evaluation document.
* By Day 1 of this week, select a specific video case study to use for this Assignment from the Video Case Selections choices in the Learning Resources. View your assigned video case and review the additional data for the case in the “Case History Reports” document, keeping the requirements of the evaluation template in mind.
* Consider what history would be necessary to collect from this patient.
* Consider what interview questions you would need to ask this patient.
* Identify at least three possible differential diagnoses for the patient.

BY DAY 7 OF WEEK 3

Complete and submit your Comprehensive Psychiatric Evaluation, 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 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.
* **Reflection notes:** What would you do differently with this client if you could conduct the session over? 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.).

Week 4 assignmnet

ASSESSING AND DIAGNOSING PATIENTS WITH ANXIETY DISORDERS, PTSD, AND OCD

[](https://cdn-media.waldenu.edu/2dett4d/Walden/Canvas/Getty/1920x938/GettyLicense_464675257.jpg)“Fear,” according to the *DSM-5-TR,* “is the emotional response to real or perceived imminent threat, whereas *anxiety*is anticipation of future threat” (APA, 2022). All anxiety disorders contain some degree of fear or anxiety symptoms (often in combination with avoidant behaviors), although their causes and severity differ. Trauma-related disorders may also, but not necessarily, contain fear and anxiety symptoms, but their primary distinguishing criterion is exposure to a traumatic event. Trauma can occur at any point in life. It might not surprise you to discover that traumatic events are likely to have a greater effect on children than on adults. Early-life traumatic experiences, such as childhood sexual abuse, may influence the physiology of the developing brain. Later in life, there is a chronic hyperarousal of the stress response, making the individual vulnerable to further stress and stress-related disease.

For this Assignment, you practice assessing and diagnosing patients with anxiety disorders, PTSD, and OCD. Review the *DSM-5-TR* criteria for the disorders within these classifications before you get started, as you will be asked to justify your differential diagnosis with *DSM-5-TR* criteria.

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/120242/modules/items/4454936)

TO PREPARE:

* Review this week’s Learning Resources and consider the insights they provide about assessing and diagnosing anxiety, obsessive-compulsive, and trauma- and stressor-related disorders.
* Download the Comprehensive Psychiatric Evaluation Template, which you will use to complete this Assignment. Also review the Comprehensive Psychiatric Evaluation Exemplar to see an example of a completed evaluation document.
* By Day 1 of this week, select a specific video case study to use for this Assignment from the Video Case Selections choices in the Learning Resources. View your assigned video case and review the additional data for the case in the “Case History Reports” document, keeping the requirements of the evaluation template in mind.
* Consider what history would be necessary to collect from this patient.
* Consider what interview questions you would need to ask this patient.
* Identify at least three possible differential diagnoses for the patient.

BY DAY 7 OF WEEK 4

Complete and submit your Comprehensive Psychiatric Evaluation, including your differential diagnosis and critical-thinking process to formulate 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.
* **Reflection notes:** What would you do differently with this client if you could conduct the session over? 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.).

Week 7 assignmnet

ASSESSING AND DIAGNOSING PATIENTS WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA, OTHER PSYCHOTIC DISORDERS, AND MEDICATION-INDUCED MOVEMENT DISORDERS

[](https://cdn-media.waldenu.edu/2dett4d/Walden/Canvas/Getty/1920x938/GettyLicense_180407744.jpg)Psychotic disorders and schizophrenia are some of the most complicated and challenging diagnoses in the *DSM*. The symptoms of psychotic disorders may appear quite vivid in some patients; with others, symptoms may be barely observable. Additionally, symptoms may overlap among disorders. For example, specific symptoms, such as neurocognitive impairments, social problems, and illusions may exist in patients with schizophrenia but are also contributing symptoms for other psychotic disorders.

For this Assignment, you will analyze a case study related to schizophrenia, another psychotic disorder, or a 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/120242/modules/items/4455049)

TO PREPARE:

* Review this week’s Learning Resources and consider the insights they provide about assessing and diagnosing psychotic disorders. Consider whether experiences of psychosis-related symptoms are always indicative of a diagnosis of schizophrenia. Think about alternative diagnoses for psychosis-related symptoms.
* Download the Comprehensive Psychiatric Evaluation Template, which you will use to complete this Assignment. Also review the Comprehensive Psychiatric Evaluation Exemplar to see an example of a completed evaluation document.
* By Day 1 of this week, select a specific video case study to use for this Assignment from the Video Case Selections choices in the Learning Resources. View your assigned video case and review the additional data for the case in the “Case History Reports” document, keeping the requirements of the evaluation template in mind.
* Consider what history would be necessary to collect from this patient.
* Consider what interview questions you would need to ask this patient.
* Identify at least three possible differential diagnoses for the patient.

Week 8 assignment

ASSESSING AND DIAGNOSING PATIENTS WITH SUBSTANCE-RELATED AND ADDICTIVE DISORDERS

An important consideration when working with patients is their cultural background. Understanding an individual's culture and personal experiences provides insight into who the person is and where he or she may progress in the future. Culture helps to establish a sense of identity, as well as to set values, behaviors, and purpose for individuals within a society. Culture may also contribute to a divide between specific interpretations of cultural behavior and societal norms. What one culture may deem as appropriate another culture may find inappropriate. As a result, it is important for advanced practice nurses to remain aware of cultural considerations and interpretations of behavior for diagnosis, especially with reference to substance-related disorders. At the same time, PMHNPs must balance their professional and legal responsibilities for assessment and diagnosis with such cultural considerations and interpretations.

For this Assignment, you will practice assessing and diagnosing a patient in a case study who is experiencing a substance-related or addictive disorder. With this and all cases, remember to consider the patient’s cultural background.

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/120242/modules/items/4455086)

TO PREPARE:

* Review this week’s Learning Resources and consider the insights they provide.
* Review the Comprehensive Psychiatric Evaluation template, which you will use to complete this Assignment.
* By Day 1 of this week, select a specific video case study to use for this Assignment from the Video Case Selections choices in the Learning Resources. View your assigned video case and review the additional data for the case in the “Case History Reports” document, keeping the requirements of the evaluation template in mind.
* Consider what history would be necessary to collect from this patient.
* Consider what interview questions you would need to ask this patient.
* Identify at least three possible differential diagnoses for the patient.

BY DAY 7 OF WEEK 8

Complete and submit your Comprehensive Psychiatric Evaluation, including your differential diagnosis and critical-thinking process to formulate 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.
* **Reflection notes:** What would you do differently with this client if you could conduct the session over? 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.).

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Week 10 assignment

ASSIGNMENT

[](https://cdn-media.waldenu.edu/2dett4d/Walden/Canvas/Getty/1920x938/GettyLicense_155383580.jpg)Neurodevelopmental disorders begin in the developmental period of childhood and may continue through adulthood. They may range from the very specific to a general or global impairment, and often co-occur (APA, 2022). They include specific learning and language disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorders, and intellectual disabilities. Neurocognitive disorders, on the other hand, represent a decline in one or more areas of prior mental function that is significant enough to impact independent functioning. They may occur at any time in life and be caused by factors such brain injury; diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, or Huntington’s; infection; or stroke, among others.

For this Assignment, you will assess a patient in a case study who presents with a neurocognitive or neurodevelopmental 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/120242/modules/items/4455150)

TO PREPARE:

* Review this week’s Learning Resources and consider the insights they provide. Consider how neurocognitive impairments may have similar presentations to other psychological disorders.
* Review the Comprehensive Psychiatric Evaluation template, which you will use to complete this Assignment.
* By Day 1 of this week, select a specific video case study to use for this Assignment from the Video Case Selections choices in the Learning Resources. View your assigned video case and review the additional data for the case in the “Case History Reports” document, keeping the requirements of the evaluation template in mind.
* Consider what history would be necessary to collect from this patient.
* Consider what interview questions you would need to ask this patient.
* Identify at least three possible differential diagnoses for the patient.

BY DAY 7 OF WEEK 10

Complete and submit your Comprehensive Psychiatric Evaluation, including your differential diagnosis and critical-thinking process to formulate 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.
* **Reflection notes:** What would you do differently with this client if you could conduct the session over? 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.).