

Challenges Affecting the Implementation of the Integrated Approach to Mental Healthcare at PHC Clinics

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ABSTRACT The implementation of the integrated approach could pose a challenge to nurses. The purpose of the study was to explore and describe the perceptions of the professional nurses on the challenges affecting the implementation of the integrated approach with specific reference to the care of mentally ill patients. A qualitative, exploratory and descriptive design was used. The population comprised of PHC nurses working in the Mutale sub-district PHC facilities of Vhembe District. Probability systematic random sampling and purposive sampling were used to obtain a sample of six PHC clinics and 45 PHC nurses, respectively. Ethical principles were adhered. Focus groups and individual interviews were used. Data was analyzed using Tesch's open coding method. Findings revealed poor management of resources and difficulties in managing psychotic patients to be affecting the implementation of the integrated approach. The study suggests staff development programs. Furthermore, nurses need skills to handle aggressive mentally ill patients.