

Table 2

Behavioral Health Care Competency Responses

Item	No.	SD	D	Neither A/D	A	SA	M (SD)
Assessment $\alpha = .85$ ($n = 279$)							3.7 (0.6)
I can assess patients for potential psychiatric problems.	288	14 (4.9)	30 (10.4)	57 (20.0)	158 (54.9)	29 (10.1)	3.6 (1.0)
<i>I am able to identify signs and symptoms of common psychiatric conditions e.g., depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder).</i>	287	7 (2.4)	44 (15.3)	59 (20.6)	147 (51.2)	30 (10.5)	3.5 (0.9)
I can identify common neuroleptic, tranquilizers, and antidepressant medications used with psychiatric patients.	287	8 (2.8)	48 (16.7)	49 (17.1)	161 (56.1)	21 (7.3)	3.5 (0.9)
I can assess patients for risk of suicide (suicidality).	285	4 (1.4)	24 (8.4)	44 (15.4)	179 (62.8)	34 (11.9)	3.8 (0.8)
I recognize behaviors that indicate a patient may have alcohol or drug abuse problems.	286	2 (.7)	12 (4.2)	20 (7.0)	209 (73.1)	43 (15.0)	4.0 (0.7)
I can recognize signs and symptoms of alcohol withdrawal.	284	4 (1.4)	16 (5.6)	23 (8.1)	192 (67.6)	49 (17.3)	3.9 (0.8)
I can recognize signs and symptoms of drug withdrawal.	284	4 (1.4)	20 (7.0)	29 (10.2)	193 (68.0)	38 (13.4)	3.9 (0.8)
I can distinguish between dementia and delirium.	285	15 (5.2)	52 (18.2)	77 (26.9)	126 (44.1)	16 (5.6)	3.3 (1.0)
I can recognize the warning signs in patients whose behavior may escalate to aggression or dangerous behavior.	284	2 (.7)	32 (11.3)	34 (12.0)	185 (65.1)	31 (10.9)	3.7 (0.8)

Practice/Intervention $\alpha = .85$ ($n = 280$)							3.4 (.6)
I can initiate appropriate nursing interventions for common psychiatric issues such as depression, bipolar disorder, and psychosis.	286	14 (4.9)	53 (18.5)	77 (26.9)	123 (43.0)	19 (6.6)	3.3 (1.0)
I can effectively interact with patients who have mental health problems.	283	8 (2.8)	32 (11.3)	74 (26.2)	144 (50.9)	25 (8.8)	3.5 (0.9)
I can maintain a safe environment for patients on my unit who have psychiatric conditions.	285	5 (1.8)	23 (8.1)	57 (20.0)	168 (59.0)	32 (11.2)	3.7 (0.8)
<i>I am able to manage conflicts caused by patients who have mental problems.</i>	286	6 (2.1)	36 (12.6)	93 (32.5)	127 (44.4)	24 (8.4)	3.4 (0.9)
I can effectively intervene with a patient having hallucinations.	285	11 (3.9)	67 (23.5)	100 (35.1)	97 (34.0)	10 (3.5)	3.1 (0.9)
I am able to use de-escalation techniques and crisis communication to avert aggressive behaviors.	285	8 (2.8)	53 (18.6)	89 (31.2)	119 (41.8)	16 (5.6)	3.3 (0.9)
I plan for more time to take care of patients with psychiatric issues compared with my other patients.	286	7 (2.5)	38 (13.3)	85 (29.7)	124 (43.4)	32 (11.2)	3.5 (0.9)
I can maintain a therapeutic relationship with most patients on my unit who have psychiatric issues.	287	2 (.7)	14 (4.9)	62 (21.8)	188 (66.2)	18 (6.3)	3.7 (0.7)
Recommend psychotropics $\alpha = .79$ ($n = 287$)							2.4 (1.0)

<i>I am confident that I can recommend use of psychotropic drugs to physicians for appropriate patients.</i>	287	54 (18.8)	126 (43.9)	54 (18.8)	46 (16.0)	7 (2.4)	2.4 (1.0)
I recommend psychotropic drugs to physicians for psychiatric patients.	287	74 (25.8)	98 (34.2)	68 (24.0)	41 (14.3)	6 (2.1)	2.3 (1.1)
Resource adequacy $\alpha = .69$ ($n = 284$)							4.0 (0.6)
I know when to ask for outside help (e.g., physician, psychiatric nurse, other) for a patient with psychiatric issues or dangerous behaviors.	287	3 (1.1)	5 (1.7)	21 (7.3)	167 (58.2)	91 (31.7)	4.2 (0.7)
I call for outside resources (e.g. physician, psychiatric nurse, other) when I recognize that my patient's behaviors are escalating beyond my capabilities.	286	3 (1.1)	4 (1.4)	21 (7.3)	159 (55.6)	99 (34.6)	4.2 (0.7)
I am confident that help is available to me when I need assistance with patients who have comorbid behavioral or psychiatric issues.	285	5 (1.8)	25 (8.8)	57 (20.0)	143 (50.2)	55 (19.3)	3.8 (0.9)
<i>Hospital resources are available to me when I need assistance with behavioral health, psychiatric issues, or substance abuse issues.</i>	288	6 (2.1)	24 (8.3)	79 (27.4)	132 (45.8)	47 (16.3)	3.7 (0.9)
Total BHCC Score ($n = 271$)							3.5 (0.5)

Note. SD = strongly disagree. D = Disagree. A = Agree. SA = Strongly agree. BHCC = Behavioral Health Care Competency.