**PMHNP Role in Substance Abuse Disorders**

Tonya Buchanan

King University

NURS5078: Clinical

Dr. Nicole Walters

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 Health care professionals handle patients with substance abuse disorder on a daily basis. It is more common than we would prefer to admit. Nurse practitioners have become crucial in the screening, diagnosing, and treatment of those suffering with substance use (Wright et al., 2022). “Educating NPs to better provide care services for substance use disorder can result in positive evolution of attitudes and beliefs and contribute to a sense of confidence, ability, and preparedness” (Wright et al., p.82, 2022). Identifying those at risk or those that have active use for substance abuse and providing a safe place for them to seek treatment without judgement is very important. Shame keeps people from seeking help that is very necessary.

 Prevention should begin with children, through education and explanation. Kids are like sponges and will take in information that is given to them. If there are programs that target young people, there is a chance to create diversion with knowledge (Alarcó-Rosales et al., 2021). Education and experience are important on knowing how to implement programs or treatment that will reach children that are aged 12 and up (Horner at al., 2019). Psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners (PMHNPs) are very important in educating people on the effects of the substance as they understand how it effects the brain circuitry (Horner et al., 2019). Neurotransmitters and how they function are a focus of the PMHNP study. Not all nurses or advanced nurses develop that knowledge in their education.

 PMHNPs bring different experience to the table when discussing substance abuse disorder. PMHNPs see people that have been untreated for a mood disorder and use alcohol or substances to treat their symptoms. Clinical has shown many that people have physicians that treat the symptoms that they present with but don’t have enough experience to explore the possibility of a mood disorder. People do not always choose to be addicted to substances. These substances may be the only thing that provides them comfort or rest when they are unable to sleep. PMHNPs must not just keep the knowledge to themselves but share information with colleagues to help them feel more compassion as they deal with those that are struggling with a horrible disease process.

References

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