Nurses Content
Downloaded from nursescontent.com

Generalized anxiety disorder Patient & caregiver education

Mental Health Nursing | Patient & caregiver education

For educational purposes only.

Fictional educational example. Individualize using verified patient findings, authorized treatment and current local protocols. No real patient record or observed outcome is claimed.

Patient profile and history

34-year-old woman with persistent excessive worry. Care stage: During a planned education session after immediate needs are addressed.

Medical history: Persistent worry across daily situations has affected sleep and concentration. The patient seeks help because coping strategies are no longer sufficient. No known drug allergy is reported in this fictional interview; this does not replace medicine-by-medicine verification in real care.

Surgical history: No previous major operation is reported in this fictional interview. Confirm procedure details, complications and any relevant devices when applying the exercise.

Personal and family assessment: The person wishes to participate in decisions and prefers permission before others are involved. Assess support, work/study function, substance use and practical access without stigma.

Scenario: The learner asks for a short plain-language explanation and a demonstration rather than a long list of instructions.

Clinical assessment

Subjective: Worries across daily situations with tension and difficulty sleeping.

Objective findings and required checks: Restlessness and impaired concentration; physical symptoms and risk require assessment.

Physical examination and investigations: Assess duration, triggers, function, physical causes, substance use and safety.

Supply actual values, units, timing and trends during supervised application. Do not invent missing clinical data.

Clinical focus and pathophysiology

Generalized anxiety disorder: Persistent threat-focused thinking and physiological arousal can reinforce distress and avoidance.

Nurses Content For educational purposes only. 1 / 8

Nurses Content
Downloaded from nursescontent.com

Medical / surgical management

Use therapeutic listening, practical coping skills and prescribed psychological or medication treatment.

Illustrative drug and treatment study

Medicine / treatment	Purpose	Nursing checks
Prescribed SSRI when indicated	Treat the assessed anxiety disorder	Monitor response, early adverse effects and follow-up
sedative review	Short-term medicines require careful indication	Check dependence, sedation and falls risks.

Treatment examples are not a prescription. Verify the authorized product, dose, route, timing, contraindications and current local product information.

Nursing process - ADPIE

Assessment

Worries across daily situations with tension and difficulty sleeping. Restlessness and impaired concentration; physical symptoms and risk require assessment. The learner asks for a short plain-language explanation and a demonstration rather than a long list of instructions.

Nursing diagnosis

Prioritize emotional distress affecting participation in care; sleep disrupted by symptoms or the care environment; coping resources strained by illness or social stress; learning needs about the condition and care plan. Validate each concern against assessment. For an actual problem, link the problem, contributing factors and observed cues; for a risk problem, document the risk factors without invented symptoms.

Planning

By the end of the planned teaching session: document a patient-specific baseline and measurable target. Agree short- and longer-term outcomes with the patient/caregiver; physiological safety takes priority over teaching and discharge tasks.

Implementation

Use therapeutic listening, practical coping skills and prescribed psychological or medication treatment. Assess understanding, demonstrate a condition-specific skill and verify learning using teach-back. Document care, prescribed treatment, consent and escalation.

Evaluation

Compare reassessment with each stated outcome. Mark met, partly met or not met using observed evidence, document the review time and revise the plan. This

Nurses Content For educational purposes only. 2 / 8

Nurses Content
Downloaded from nursescontent.com

vignette provides no completed patient outcome.

Nurses Content For educational purposes only. 3 / 8

Nurses Content
Downloaded from nursescontent.com

Nursing care plan

Nursing diagnoses use original clinical problem wording. They are not the licensed NANDA-I classification. Verify any formal label or code against your institution's licensed current edition; select actual or risk diagnoses only when supported by assessment.

Context task: Assess understanding, demonstrate a condition-specific skill and verify learning using teach-back.

Set individualized measurable targets and an exact review time. Select actual or risk statements only when supported by assessment.

Assessment: subjective / objective	Nursing diagnosis: original problem wording	Short- and longer-term goals	Nursing interventions with rationale	Evaluation
Ask: Ask what worries the patient most and how they prefer to receive information. Assess: Observe distress, attention and ability to engage without making assumptions.	Emotional distress affecting participation in care. Possible factors: uncertainty, symptoms or unfamiliar treatment. Validate against the patient's assessment.	Short-term: By the end of the planned teaching session: Identifies one immediate concern and participates in an agreed next step. Longer-term: Before the clinically approved transition or agreed follow-up: Describes helpful support and coping strategies before transition of care.	1. Listen without judgment and acknowledge specific concerns. Rationale: Feeling heard supports trust and therapeutic engagement. 2. Explain one step at a time and use teach-back with permission. Rationale: Manageable information reduces uncertainty and checks understanding. 3. Offer culturally appropriate support and refer when distress persists or safety concerns arise. Rationale: Additional support may be needed beyond bedside reassurance. 4. Use therapeutic listening, practical coping skills and prescribed psychological or medication treatment. Rationale: Persistent threat-focused thinking and physiological arousal can reinforce distress and avoidance. The condition-specific plan addresses the underlying problem while response is monitored.	Record the baseline and reassessed finding, the time and whether this goal is met, partly met or not met. If not met, reassess causes and revise or escalate. Do not record an unobserved improvement.

Nurses Content For educational purposes only. 4 / 8

Nurses Content
Downloaded from nursescontent.com

Assessment: subjective / objective	Nursing diagnosis: original problem wording	Short- and longer-term goals	Nursing interventions with rationale	Evaluation
Ask: Ask about usual sleep, current disruption and daytime fatigue. Assess: Record sleep pattern, symptom triggers and environmental disturbance.	Sleep disrupted by symptoms or the care environment. Possible factors: discomfort, anxiety or interrupted routines. Validate against the patient's assessment.	Short-term: By the end of the planned teaching session: Reports improved rest during the next planned sleep period. Longer-term: Before the clinically approved transition or agreed follow-up: Identifies practical sleep-supporting routines for recovery.	1. Identify pain, breathlessness, anxiety and medicine-related causes of poor sleep. Rationale: Treating contributors is more useful than assuming a single cause. 2. Cluster non-urgent care and reduce light and noise when safe. Rationale: A predictable environment protects opportunities to sleep. 3. Use relaxation strategies and review prescribed sedating medicines carefully. Rationale: Rest should improve without avoidable oversedation or falls.	Record the baseline and reassessed finding, the time and whether this goal is met, partly met or not met. If not met, reassess causes and revise or escalate. Do not record an unobserved improvement.
Ask: Ask about stressors, strengths, support people and previous coping. Assess: Assess function, engagement and immediate safety needs.	Coping resources strained by illness or social stress. Possible factors: demands exceeding currently available support. Validate against the patient's assessment.	Short-term: By the end of the planned teaching session: Chooses one feasible coping action and identifies a support person or service. Longer-term: Before the clinically approved transition or agreed follow-up: Has a realistic follow-up and support plan agreed with the care team.	1. Assess strengths and barriers collaboratively. Rationale: An individualized plan builds on resources the person can actually use. 2. Practice a simple coping strategy and divide tasks into achievable steps. Rationale: Small successes support confidence and participation. 3. Coordinate social, psychological or community support as indicated. Rationale: Practical barriers can limit recovery even when clinical treatment is available.	Record the baseline and reassessed finding, the time and whether this goal is met, partly met or not met. If not met, reassess causes and revise or escalate. Do not record an unobserved improvement.
Ask: Ask what the learner already knows and wants to understand. Assess:	Learning needs about the condition and care plan. Possible factors: new	Short-term: By the end of the planned teaching session: Explains the most important immediate	1. Assess language, literacy, hearing, vision and preferred learning method. Rationale: Accessible teaching improves understanding. 2. Teach a few	Record the baseline and reassessed finding, the time

Nurses Content For educational purposes only. 5 / 8

Nurses Content
Downloaded from nursescontent.com

Assessment: subjective / objective	Nursing diagnosis: original problem wording	Short- and longer-term goals	Nursing interventions with rationale	Evaluation
Use teach-back or demonstration to identify specific gaps.	information, complex treatment or limited prior teaching. Validate against the patient's assessment.	action in their own words. Longer-term: Before the clinically approved transition or agreed follow-up: Demonstrates the agreed care skills and names follow-up and warning signs.	condition-specific points using plain language and demonstration. Rationale: Focused information is easier to retain and apply. 3. Use teach-back, correct misunderstandings and provide an accessible written plan. Rationale: Checking understanding supports safer self-management. 4. Practice coping skills, sleep routines and gradual engagement; explain treatment follow-up. Rationale: Condition-specific teaching connects the treatment plan to safe continuing care.	and whether this goal is met, partly met or not met. If not met, reassess causes and revise or escalate. Do not record an unobserved improvement.

Nurses Content For educational purposes only. 6 / 8

Nurses Content
Downloaded from nursescontent.com

Health education and continuing care

Practice coping skills, sleep routines and gradual engagement; explain treatment follow-up.

Transition only after clinical readiness is confirmed. Reconcile medicines, check access and caregiver support, and document who will review the patient and when.

Urgent warning signs

Chest pain, syncope, severe new physical symptoms or immediate safety concerns need appropriate urgent assessment.

Evaluation and conclusion

For each goal, document met, partly met or not met using observed evidence and the review time. Reassess and revise if progress is inadequate. Individual assessment, prioritized care and coordinated review guide this topic.

Quick Revision

- Persistent threat-focused thinking and physiological arousal can reinforce distress and avoidance.

- Priority concerns: Emotional distress affecting participation in care; Sleep disrupted by symptoms or the care environment; Coping resources strained by illness or social stress; Learning needs about the condition and care plan.

- Chest pain, syncope, severe new physical symptoms or immediate safety concerns need appropriate urgent assessment.

- Practice coping skills, sleep routines and gradual engagement; explain treatment follow-up.

Exam / viva: What should the learner demonstrate or explain before you consider the teaching effective?

References

Nursing Fundamentals, 2e - Ernstmeyer & Christman (editors), Open RN / WisTech Open, 2024
https://wtcs.pressbooks.pub/nursingfundamentals/

Nursing Mental Health and Community Concepts, 2e - Open RN / WisTech Open, 2025
https://wtcs.pressbooks.pub/nursingmhcc/

Nursing Pharmacology, 2e - Ernstmeyer & Christman (editors), Open RN / WisTech Open, 2023
https://wtcs.pressbooks.pub/pharmacology2e/

B.Sc. Nursing curriculum and regulatory notifications - Indian Nursing Council
https://www.indiannursingcouncil.org/gazette-notification

Original cases and care-plan wording by Nurses Content. Linked sources support further study; source terms and local clinical requirements apply. Prepared 23 November 2026. Not independently clinically peer reviewed.

Nurses Content For educational purposes only. 7 / 8

Nurses Content
Downloaded from nursescontent.com

Rights and reuse

Delivered by Nurses Content. Copyright claims apply only to original material owned by its authors. Medical facts, statutory exceptions and third-party/open licence rights remain unaffected. See the website's /policies/reuse/ page for terms.

Nurses Content For educational purposes only. 8 / 8