
Nursing goal

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Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD
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Definition: The expected goal or outcome of the client problems resulting from the actions taken by the nurse.

Context: Community nursing: the nursing goal reflects the primary reason for, and focus of, a client's care episode. As such, it is the major variable against which client outcomes can be reviewed. The nursing goal relates to the overall episode, and in this format, provides a focusing effect at the time of care planning.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: N
Minimum Size: 1
Maximum Size: 1

Data Domain: 1 Client will have a complete recovery, no ongoing nursing required
2 Client will make an incomplete recovery, rehabilitate to a maximum level of functioning, no ongoing nursing required
3 Client will make an incomplete recovery, rehabilitate to a maximum level of functioning, ongoing nursing required
4 Client in end-stage of illness, maintain at home in comfort and dignity with ongoing nursing support
5 Client unable to be maintained at home for extended period, for institutional care at planned/appropriate time

- 6 Well client for preventative/maintenance/health promotion program
- 7 For Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit (DN CB) assessment only

Guide For Use: Unlike the more specific data element Nursing diagnosis, this definition focuses on the broader goal which the client and nurse hope to achieve, and where appropriate, should include a statement of the expected time by which the goal is to be achieved.

1 Client will have a complete recovery, no ongoing nursing required

describes those clients whose condition is self-limiting and from which complete recovery is anticipated, or those with established or long-term health problems who are normally independent in their management.

Includes:

- post-surgical or acute medical clients whose care at home is to facilitate convalescence. Such admissions to home care occur as a result of early discharge from hospital, post-surgical complication such as wound infection, or because the client is at risk during the recovery phase and requires surveillance for a limited period;
- clients recovering from an acute illness and referred from the general practitioner or other community-based facility; and
- clients with disability or established health problem normally independent of health services, and currently recovering from an acute condition or illness as above.

Excludes:

- well clients whose primary contact with the service is for preventative or health maintenance programs and not as a result of established or recent health problems.

2 Client will make an incomplete recovery, rehabilitate to a maximum level of functioning, no ongoing nursing required refers to those clients whose care plan is aimed at returning them to independent functioning at home either through self care or with informal assistance, such that nursing services will be discontinued. The distinguishing characteristic of this group is that complete recovery is not expected but some functional gain may be possible. Further, the condition is not expected to deteriorate rapidly or otherwise cause the client to be at risk without contact or surveillance from the nursing service.

3 Client will make an incomplete recovery, rehabilitate to a maximum level of functioning, ongoing nursing required

are clients whose health problem/condition is not expected to resolve and who will require ongoing maintenance care from the nursing service. Such clients are distinguished from those in goal 4 in that their condition is of an unknown or long-term nature and not expected to cause death in the foreseeable future. They may require therapy for restoration of function initially and intermittently, and may also have intermittent admissions for respite. However, the major part of their care is planned to be at home.

Also included are clients whose condition places them at risk of deteriorating or becoming severely ill such that ongoing nursing surveillance is required to enable them to remain at home.

4 Client in end-stage of illness, maintain at home in comfort and dignity with ongoing nursing support
are those clients whose focus of care is palliation of symptoms and facilitation of the choice to die at home.

5 Client unable to be maintained at home for extended period, for institutional care at planned/appropriate time
includes clients who have a limited ability to remain at home because of their intensive care requirements and the inability of formal and informal services to meet these needs. Admission to institutional care is therefore a part of the care planning process and the timing dependent upon the capacity and/or wish to remain at home. The distinguishing feature of this group is that the admission is not planned to be an intermittent event to boost the capacity for home care but is expected to be of a more permanent (or indeterminate) nature.

6 Well client for preventative/maintenance/health promotion program
are those clients making contact with the health service primarily as a part of a preventative/maintenance health promotion program. This means they are well and do not require care for established health problems. They include well antenatal clients and persons attending or being seen by the service for screening or health education purposes.
Excluded from this group are persons with established health problems or permanent disability if the contact is related to the condition. For example, persons with diabetes and in a diabetes program would be included in goal 2; however, such persons would be included in goal 6 if the contact with the service is not related to an established health problem but is primarily for preventative/maintenance care as described above.

