

**Specification of Competency Standards**  
**for the Elderly Care Service Industry**  
**Unit of Competency**

Functional Area - Clinical Care

Title	Design a Suitable Living Environment for Psychiatric Patients
Code	106060L4
Range	This Unit of Competency is applicable to employees in elderly care service industry providing clinical care service to elderlies. This competency involves the ability to analyse and make judgments. Employees are required to analyse psychiatric patients' needs in terms of medical care and rehabilitation, and design suitable living environment in order to ensure the safety, privacy and dignity of the patients, and improve their quality of life.
Level	4
Credit	3 (For Reference Only)
Competency	<p>Performance Requirements</p> <p>1. Knowledge related to the needs in living environment of psychiatric patients</p> <p>Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the definition, types, cause and symptoms of psychiatric disorders</li> <li>• Understand the daily routine of patients in the institution</li> <li>• Understand the principles of psychosocial rehabilitation for psychiatric patients</li> <li>• Understand the principles in designing living environment suitable for psychiatric patients</li> <li>• Understand the designs that favour rehabilitation of psychiatric patients; create an environment that can support their physical, mental and social rehabilitation</li> <li>• Understand the relevant laws, guidelines and policies laid down by the institution and regulatory authorities with respect to the provision of residential care services for people with disabilities, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Guidelines and policies of the institution regarding privacy and environment safety</li> <li>○ Service quality standards of the Social Welfare Department</li> <li>○ Code of Practice for Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) issued by the Social Welfare Department</li> <li>○ Universal Design Guidebook For Residential Development in Hong Kong issued by the Hong Kong Housing Society</li> <li>○ Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance (CAP 613, Laws of Hong Kong)</li> <li>○ Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Regulation (CAP 613A, Laws of Hong Kong)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>2. Design living environment suitable for psychiatric patients</p> <p>Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design living environment suitable for psychiatric patients based on relevant design principles, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Create a home-like atmosphere and familiar environment</li> <li>○ Blend elements of rehabilitation seamlessly into the environment, for example, use soft materials for curtains and carpets to absorb sounds, reduce echoes and possible auditory hallucination; use proper lighting to avoid dark shadows and illusions</li> <li>○ Reduce the danger of wandering, for example, alarms to prevent elderlies from being lost</li> <li>○ Set up different rooms to incorporate and coordinate different services, for example, activity rooms, treatment rooms and meeting rooms to facilitate provision of services by different professionals, .</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ When designing the living environment, respect patients' autonomy, right to decide and privacy</li> <li>● Consider patients' needs in terms of nursing care and rehabilitation, further improve their living environment, for example,             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Biological aspects, for example, use bigger signage and create strong colour contrast between the wall and handrail for patients with impaired vision</li> <li>○ Psychological aspects, for example, provide predictable activities resources and schedule a timetable for daily routine activities to reduce the anxiety of the patients</li> <li>○ Social aspects, for example, design common areas and a wide range of group activities to help patients improve their social skills, and thus enhance their communication ability and self-confidence</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>3. Exhibit professionalism</p> <p>Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● When designing living environment for psychiatric patients, ensure the patients' autonomy, privacy and right to decide are well-respected</li> <li>● Ensure the living environment complies with the relevant laws and requirements of the authorities</li> <li>● Be mindful of the patients' personal feeling, show support and understanding in order to build their confidence and trust</li> </ul>
Assessment Criteria	<p>The integrated outcome requirement of this Unit of Competency is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ability to apply relevant design principles in designing a suitable, comfortable and safe living environment for psychiatric patients according to their physical, mental, social, nursing care and rehabilitation needs, so as to improve their quality of life.</li> </ul>
Remark	