Dear Respondent

I hereby request your participation to the study entitled “Professional Nurses' perception of nursing mentally ill people in a general hospital setting”.

This study is undertaken as part of the requirements toward the degree of Master’s Curationis in the Department of Health Studies, Unisa with both Professors TR Mavundla and M Ganga-Limando as supervisor and joint supervisor, respectively.

The purpose of the study is to describe professional nurses' perception of nursing mentally ill people in a general hospital setting. The results of the study might be used to generate guidelines to assist nurses working in general wards to improve their perceptions of nursing this group of people in general hospital settings.

Your participation to the study by completing the attached questionnaire will be highly appreciated.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Ms K Lethoba RN (B Cur)
RESEARCHER

Prof TR Mavundla
SUPERVISOR

Prof M Ganga-Limando
JOINT SUPERVISOR
A TOOL TO MEASURE “PROFESSIONAL NURSES’ PERCEPTION OF NURSING MENTALLY ILL PEOPLE IN A GENERAL HOSPITAL SETTING”

SECTION 1
Mark your correct response on appropriate box with X below and fill in spaces where necessary. N.B: The information below is requested for statistical purpose for this study and do not infringe on your constitutional rights.

1 DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

1.1 Gender
☐ Male
☐ Female

1.2 Age Range
☐ Under 25
☐ 25-34
☐ 35-44
☐ 45-54
☐ 55+

1.3 Marital Status
☐ Single
☐ Married
☐ Divorced
☐ Widowed
☐ Staying together

1.4 Race
☐ White
☐ Black
☐ Indian
☐ Coloured
Other (specify) : .................................................................
1.5 Employment status
☐ Full-time employment
☐ Part-time employment

1.6 Educational qualifications
☐ Diploma in General Nursing
☐ Diploma in General Nursing and Midwifery
☐ Diploma for (General Nurse, Psychiatry, and Community Health and Midwifery)
☐ Diploma in General Nursing and Psychiatric Nursing

Other (specify) : .................................................................

1.7 Number of years employed in nursing
☐ 2 years and below
☐ Between 3 and 4 years
☐ Between 5 and 10 years
☐ 11 years +

1.8 Previous experience with mentally ill people
☐ Never
☐ Mentally ill in the family
☐ Nursing
☐ Mentally ill in the community
1.9 Religious affiliations

☐ Roman Catholic

☐ Protestant Movement

☐ Zionist traditional

☐ African religious belief

☐ Atheist

Other (specify): .................................................................
SECTION 2

The statements below refer to your own perception regarding nursing mentally ill people in a general hospital setting:

Then please, evaluate each statement by using the following keys:

1 = SD (Strongly disagree)
2 = D (Disagree)
3 = U (Uncertain)
4 = A (Agree)
5 = SA (Strongly agree)

Place a cross under the relevant answer.

2.1 PERCEPTION OF SELF

2.1.1 I believe that the mentally ill patient should be only nurse by psychiatric nurses

2.1.2 I am confident to nurse mentally ill patient in my ward

2.1.3 I do respect a mentally ill patient as an individual

2.1.4 I think it is normal to shout at mentally ill patient

2.1.5 A mentally ill person is a person who is sick like any other patient

2.1.6 I believe that mental illness is caused by witchcraft

2.1.7 I am unable to establish therapeutic relationship with mentally ill patients in the ward
2.1.8 Mental illness is precipitated by drug abuse/misuse

2.1.9 I believe mentally ill people are unable to create friendship with other patients in the ward

2.1.10 Mentally ill patients do not isolate themselves from other patients

2.1.11 Mentally ill people view suicide as one and only alternative to their problems

2.1.12 I always tolerate mentally ill people in my ward

2.2 PERCEPTION OF PATIENTS

2.2.1 Mentally ill patients are rude when they talk to other patients

2.2.2 I do not have time to attend to a mentally ill patient

2.2.3 A wondering patient makes it very hard for me to render nursing care to other patients

2.2.4 The presence of mentally ill patient in a unit interferes with my duties

2.2.5 Mentally ill patients like to be a centre of attraction, for example by taking off their clothes, talking to themselves when they see many people around them

2.2.6 The mentally ill patients are doubtful

2.2.7 Mentally ill patients are dangerous
2.2.8 The mentally ill patients are very unpredictable

2.2.9 The mentally ill patients do recover from their illness

2.2.10 The mentally ill patients don't care how they look or appear

2.2.11 Mentally ill patients communicates with body gestures

2.2.12 Mentally ill people are susceptible to committing crime

2.2.13 Mentally ill patients depend on others to meet their basic needs

2.3 PERCEPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

2.3.1 I feel mentally ill patients should be nursed in isolation, they must not come to a general hospital

2.3.2 It is easy for me to nurse ten other patients in a general hospital than one mentally ill patient

2.3.3 Staff shortage makes it difficult for me to nurse a mentally ill patient in a general hospital setting

2.3.4 A mentally ill patient should always be nursed by a male nurse

2.3.5 It is difficult to admit a mentally ill patient in a general ward

2.3.6 I cannot cope with nursing and manage a mentally ill patient in a general hospital setting
2.3.7 Mentally ill patients should always be admitted to hospitals surrounded with a high fence and security guards

2.3.8 The best way to handle a mentally ill patient is to keep him/her behind locked doors

2.4 PERCEIVED FEELINGS

2.4.1 I am scared if a mentally ill person interferes with other patients in the ward

2.4.2 I feel insecure to render nursing care to a mentally ill patient

2.4.3 I always fear that a mentally ill patient may lose his/her senses at any given moment

2.4.4 It frustrates me to learn that I will not be compensated if injured by a mentally ill patient in the ward

2.4.5 I am afraid to nurse mentally ill patient

2.4.6 I feel threatened by a mentally ill patient

2.4.7 I feel frustrated when I am unable to communicate with mentally ill patient in my ward

2.4.8 I feel the mentally ill patient can jump on you

2.4.9 It is boring to nurse a patient who does not show any signs of immediate improvement like a mentally ill patient
2.4.10 It is a waste of time to nurse mentally ill patients in a general hospital

2.4.11 When I disagree with a mentally ill patient he/she express frustration

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRE