

## SECTION A

The personal information in this section is only for data processing and will not be used in any way to identify the respondent.

Please answer the questions, where applicable by placing a tick ✓ in the appropriate block or fill in the appropriate words or figures to complete the statements.

1. Please state your age in years at your last birthday:
2. Your sex (mark as): 

Male	Female
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3. No. of years working in Psychiatric Clinical Unit \_\_\_\_\_years.
4. Your present designation:
  - Professional Nurse
  - Senior Professional Nurse
  - Chief Professional Nurse
5. Tick your professional qualifications:

General	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midwifery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Psychiatry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clinical specialisation	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have any clinical specialisation/s please list them:

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6. Tick clinical area where you are presently working:

Acute ward

Short term ward

Long-term ward

Predischarge ward

Community psychiatric clinic

Other (specify):

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7. Indicate your number of months of experience in your present unit:

months

8. What is your supervisory position in the chain of command?

First in charge

Second in charge

Third or lower

9. How does your position influence your ability to practise as a competent professional nurse?

Describe briefly.

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10. Are you presently engaged in any studies? Yes   
No

If yes, please specify:

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## SECTION B

**Section B requires you to indicate competencies that you had upon entering the psychiatric clinical unit.**

Use the following key to complete the questionnaire:

- 4 = Mastery: able to perform competently without supervision  
3 = Competent: able to perform without supervision and with reasonable efficiency  
2 = Performance is unsafe and incompetent and requires further practice and supervision  
1 = Incompetent performance: further instruction and supervision are needed.

Please complete each item by placing a tick ✓ in the appropriate block.

### THE COMPETENCIES OF R425 PROGRAMME DIPLOMATES

COMPETENCIES	4	3	2	1
1 COGNITIVE SKILLS				
1.1 Problem-solving For example: Assess patients physical functioning.			✓	
Obtain adequate information from a psychiatric patient.				

**University of South Africa etd – Hlongwa, E. N.(2003)**

<b>COMPETENCIES</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Obtain adequate information from family.				
Assess patient's physical functioning.				
Assess patient's social functioning.				
Assess patient's psychological functioning.				
Distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information.				
Interpret verbal cues from the mentally ill patient.				
Interpret nonverbal cues from the mentally ill patient.				
Identify patient's functional deficits.				
Analyse information obtained from the patient.				
Prioritise patient's problems.				
Formulate patient's nursing care plan.				
Specify nursing intervention in order of priority.				
Identify learning needs of the mentally ill patients.				
Identify learning needs of the family.				
Identify learning needs of the students.				
Set objectives for teaching of the mentally ill patients.				
Set objectives for teaching of the family.				
Set objectives for teaching of the students.				
Design education programmes for patients.				
Design education programmes for family.				
Identify high-risk groups for developing mental illness.				
Design mental health education programmes for high risk groups.				
Evaluate effectiveness of mental health education programmes.				
Assess patients needs for rehabilitation.				
Design rehabilitation programmes for the mentally ill patients.				
Implement rehabilitation programmes for the mentally ill patients.				

COMPETENCIES	4	3	2	1
<b>1.2 MANAGEMENT</b>				
Present clear and accurate reports to members of multidisciplinary team.				
Delegate aspects of care to subordinates.				
Implement policies and procedures.				
Manage crises in the psychiatric unit.				
Apply the provision of the Mental Health Act 18 of 1973 when admitting psychiatric patients.				
Apply the provision of the Mental Health Act 18 of 1973 when managing psychiatric patients.				
Apply the provision of the Mental Health Act 18 of 1973 when discharging psychiatric patients.				
<b>1.3 RESEARCH</b>				
Identify researchable psychiatric problems.				
Initiate research.				
Critically analyse research.				
Use research data.				
Determine the applicability of the results in the clinical setting.				
<b>2 AFFECTIVE SKILLS</b>				
Being sensitive to feelings of patients.				
Accepting criticisms from staff.				
Being confident in one's own nursing ability.				
<b>2.1 Communication skills</b>				
Communicate unconditional acceptance of each patient.				
Actively listens accurately to mentally ill patients.				
Reflect feelings and content accurately.				
Verbalises empathic understanding.				

<b>COMPETENCIES</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Assess need for a group activity for all categories of psychiatric patients.				
Plan group activity for all categories of psychiatric patients.				
Implement group activity for all categories of psychiatric patients.				
Evaluate group activities for mentally ill patients.				
Identify undesirable behaviour.				
Handle problems without making personal comments.				
Communicate information to other members of the health team.				
Presentation skills in ward round.				
Presentation skills in workshops.				
Presentation skills in community projects.				
<b>2.2 Ethical conduct and caring</b>				
Adhere to regulations, laws and policies.				
Create safe environment for patients.				
Practice within the scope of practice of a professional nurse.				
<b>3 PSYCHOMOTOR SKILLS</b>				
Identify any deviation from normal behaviour.				
Manage any deviation from normal behaviour.				
Identify accurately the patient in crisis.				
Implement suicide precautions for psychiatric patients.				
Assess nutritional status of patient.				
Prepare and administer medication safely.				
Demonstrate knowledge on the use of psychiatric medication.				
Identify patients with side effects from medication.				
Implement strategies to deal with side effects from medication.				
Follow-up clients who defaulted treatment regimes.				



## SECTION C

In your ward/unit what factors do you think are the contributing factors to your lack of competence? List factors in the space provided.

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## SECTION D

In your ward/unit which competencies do you feel are essential to function as a competent psychiatric professional nurse? Please list competencies in the space provided.

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## SECTION E

1. What are your suggestions to improve psychiatric competencies of the R425 programme diplomates in psychiatric clinical units? Discuss briefly.

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2. Would you like to add any comments to the information you have provided in this study? If so, please use the space below.

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**THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRE**