Loss and Grief

Successfully Resolve Issues With

Determine Problems With

Assessment Findings

John has been HIV positive for 14 years. His 21-year partner died of AIDS 6 months ago after numerous hospitalizations. John is retired, lives by himself, has w close friends, and estranged from family.
- He becomes tearful and states, "I don't know what is wrong with me. I just can't get myself together and do things like I used to."

Admission Data

John, a middle-aged man, HIV positive for 14 years, is admitted for evaluation, monitoring, and management following an episode of coffee-ground emesis.

Jim states abdominal pain that is "like the pain" his partner had just before his death."

Physical Appearance → Full physical exam for illness

Diagnostic Tests → Depression Scale

Risk Identification → "How do you usually cope with stress?"

Normal Pattern Identification → Resources, stressors, physical health, psychosocial adjustment, social support

Environmental Assessment → Living/social situation

Dysfunction Identification

Assessed Findings

- Patient has an illness (HIV positive).
- Long-time partner recently died.
- Lacks social support.
- Patient is tearful.
- Reports not being able to do the things he used to do.

Assessment Findings Data Indicate

Problem Identification

Risk for complicated grieving related to the death of a loved one as evidenced by: Patient is tearful and states, "I don't know what is wrong with me. I just can't get myself together and do things like I used to."

Leads To

Planning/Outcomes

The patient will be able to:
- Move toward resolution of diverse emotions.
- Accept the reality of the loss.
- Reinvest emotional and physical energy in meaningful people and activities.

Implement Nursing Interventions to Promote Spiritual Health

Nursing Interventions

- Health promotion/patient teaching about the normal process of grieving and grief stages.
- Assess for suicidal ideation.
- Assess the client's stage of grieving.
- Encourage utilization of support groups.
- Encourage utilization of professional counseling.
- Individualized patient-nurse interaction.
- Use careful communication and positive encouragement.

Determine if Interventions Are Successful & Revise as Needed

Evaluation

The patient will…
- Recognize and express diverse emotions.
- Move toward resolution of diverse emotions.
- Recognize the reality of the loss.
- Recognize the need for help and seek help appropriately.
- Retain and regain physical health status.
- Reinvest emotional and physical energy in meaningful people and activities.

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