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RECOVERY AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE: VIEWS OF ED NURSES

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The demand for acute and emergency mental health care exceeds current supply of available services and it is well documented that registered nurses are increasingly caring for consumers with a mental illness as part of their daily work. However, generalist RNs' practice is predicated on the medical model and the notion of recovery entrenched in this model of care is poles apart from recovery and its daily practice is predicated on the consumers' ability to recover. The notion of recovery is not typically experienced by consumers. For RNs working in the ED, recovery is a concept that often escapes their experience.

Mental health presentations to Australian EDs are increasing (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2012), and yet many RNs who work in the ED have no formal mental health training. Insights will be gained through RNs' conceptions of recovery, and the differences that exist in the notion of recovery within these two contrasting models of care. This knowledge can be used to contribute to improving ED RNs' cognition and understanding of recovery and what it means for the consumer, and may assist in promoting development of mental health competence in clinical practice. In addition to supporting ED RNs in development of knowledge and skills to care for people experiencing mental illness, the findings from this research are aimed to positively impact care provision to this vulnerable and disadvantaged group.

REFERENCE

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