

(obsessions or compulsions), or generalized anxiety disorder. Although people show anxiety in a variety of ways, generally the signs are restlessness, irritability, and fear.

Mood disorders (previously called affective disorders) are a disturbance of mood accompanied by manic and/or depressive symptoms. When individuals are in the midst of an adjustment disorder, they are having difficulty coping with a stress-producing event. The stress can be single, as in having a loved one die, or it can be multiple, as in having a family member sick and work problems at the same time.

Hypochondriosis is diagnosed when the individual is overly concerned with health complaints not related to physical symptoms.

NOTE: ALWAYS REPORT ANY OF THE ABOVE BEHAVIORS TO YOUR SUPERVISOR/NURSE.

A confused state of mind may be very frightening and upsetting to both the client and the caregiver. Sometimes caring for the confused person is difficult and frustrating because a “cure” is not always possible, and then the confused person cannot or will not say “thank you” for your work. Although they are as vulnerable as children, the confused clients are not children and should not be treated that way. Clients may have a form of mental illness, so it becomes very important to be able to identify the basic types of this illness. Your care can make the difference between good days and bad days.

It is important for the In-Home Aide to realize that the client may feel threatened and not understand what is happening in his environment. The In-Home Aide can communicate concern, acceptance, and reassurance. This can be done both verbally and nonverbally. The confused person often responds to nonverbal communication when memory and language fail.

Chapter Review

1. What are two general types of confusion?
2. What are characteristics of clients who are confused?
3. What are three causes of confusion?
4. What are the three types of responses to confusion?
5. What is the difference between delirium and dementia?
6. What are the four stages of Alzheimer’s disease?
7. What are correct methods of dealing with severe behaviors (catastrophic reaction) resulting from confusion?
8. What are correct approaches for the client who is confused?
9. What are some other nervous system disorders?
10. What are some types of mental illness?