

**Appendix 8.8:
Geriatric Social
Work Competency
Scale II**

9. Support persons and families dealing with end of life issues related to dying, death, and bereavement. _____

10. Understand the perspective and values of social work in relation to working effectively with other disciplines in geriatric interdisciplinary practice. _____

Comments _____

II. ASSESSMENT

**Skill Level
(0 -4)**

1. Use empathy and sensitive interviewing skills to engage older clients in identifying their strengths and problems. _____

2. Adapt interviewing methods to potential sensory, language, and cognitive limitations of the older adult. _____

3. Conduct a comprehensive geriatric assessment (bio-psychosocial evaluation). _____

4. Ascertain health status and assess physical functioning (e.g., ADLs and IADLs) of older clients. _____

5. Assess cognitive functioning and mental health status of older clients (e.g., depression, dementia). _____

6. Assess social functioning (e.g., social skills, social activity level) and social support of older clients. _____

7. Assess caregivers' needs and level of stress. _____

8. Administer and interpret standardized assessment and diagnostic tools that are appropriate for use with older adults (e.g., depression scale, Mini-Mental Status Exam). _____

9. Develop clear, timely, and appropriate service plans with measurable objectives for older adults. _____

10. Reevaluate and adjust service plans for older adults on a continuing basis. _____

Comments _____

III. INTERVENTION

**Skill Level
(0 - 4)**

- 1. Establish rapport and maintain an effective working relationship with older adults and family members. _____
- 2. Enhance the coping capacities and mental health of older persons through a variety of therapy modalities (e.g., supportive, psychodynamic). _____
- 3. Utilize group interventions with older adults and their families (e.g., bereavement groups, reminiscence groups). _____
- 4. Mediate situations with angry or hostile older adults and/or family members. _____
- 5. Assist caregivers to reduce their stress levels and maintain their own mental and physical health. _____
- 6. Provide social work case management to link elders and their families to resources and services. _____
- 7. Use educational strategies to provide older persons and their families with information related to wellness, and disease management (e.g. Alzheimer's disease, end of life care). _____
- 8. Apply skills in termination in work with older clients and their families. _____
- 9. Advocate on behalf of clients with agencies and other professionals to help elderly clients obtain quality services. _____
- 10. Adhere to laws and public policies related to older adults (e.g., elder abuse reporting, legal guardianship, advance directives). _____

Comments _____

IV. AGING SERVICES, PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

**Skill
Level (0 -
4)**

1. Outreach to older adults and their families to insure appropriate use of the service continuum (e.g., health promotion, long term care, mental health). _____
2. Adapt organizational policy, procedures and resources to facilitate the provision of services to diverse older adults and their family caregivers. _____
3. Identify and develop strategies to address service gaps, fragmentation, discrimination, and barriers that impact older persons. _____
4. Include older adults in planning and designing programs. _____
5. Develop program budgets that take into account diverse sources of financial support for the older population. _____
6. Evaluate the effectiveness of practice and programs in achieving intended outcomes for older adults. _____
7. Apply evaluation and research findings to improve practice and program outcomes. _____
8. Advocate and organize with the service providers, community organizations, policy makers, and the public to promote the needs and issues of a growing aging population. _____
9. Identify the availability of resources and resource systems for older adults and their families. _____
10. Assess and address any negative impacts of social and health care policies on practice with historically disadvantage populations. _____

Comments _____

