

The Intersection of Psychiatry and Law is encompassed by Forensic Mental Health Nursing

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Abstract

The subspecialty of psychiatry known as forensic psychiatry deals with problems that arise at the point where psychiatry and law intersect, as well as with the movement of mentally ill criminals across a range of social systems. Four major developments have benefited forensic psychiatry today: the growth in awareness and appreciation of the connection between mental illness and criminal behavior; the development of legal criteria that define legal insanity; the new approaches to mental health treatment that offer alternatives to incarceration care; as well as shifts in public perceptions and attitudes regarding mental illness. The scope of forensic psychiatry as it currently exists and the ethical dilemmas this subspecialty faces worldwide are examined in this paper.

Keywords: Forensic psychiatry; Forensic Mental Health; Psychiatric nursing; Penal law; Civil law

Introduction

Actually, Forensic Mental Health Nursing is a specialized field within the broader field of psychiatric nursing. While there is some overlap between psychiatry and law within the context of forensic mental health nursing, it is important to distinguish between the two. Psychiatry is a medical specialty that focuses on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental disorders. Psychiatrists are medical doctors who can prescribe medications, provide psychotherapy, and manage the overall mental health care of individuals. Law, on the other hand, pertains to a system of rules and regulations that govern society. It encompasses various legal principles, procedures, and regulations that aim to maintain order, protect rights, and address disputes or conflicts [1].

Forensic Mental Health

Forensic Mental Health Nursing combines aspects of psychiatry and law by focusing on the intersection between mental health and the legal system. Forensic mental health nurses work with individuals who have mental health issues and are involved in the legal system, such as those in correctional facilities, forensic psychiatric hospitals, or individuals undergoing legal proceedings. Forensic mental health nurses play a crucial role in assessing and managing the mental health needs of individuals within the legal system. They may be involved in conducting psychiatric evaluations, providing mental health treatments, offering expert testimony in court, and collaborating with legal professionals, such as lawyers, judges, and law enforcement personnel. Forensic mental health nursing incorporates elements of psychiatry and law, it is more accurate to say that psychiatry and law contribute to the broader field of forensic mental health nursing rather than being encompassed by it [2].

Scope of the Forensic Mental health

The term "the branch of psychiatry that deals with issues arising in the interface between psychiatry and the law" is commonly used to describe the subspecialty of forensic psychiatry. However, this definition is somewhat restrictive because a significant portion of forensic psychiatry's work entails assisting the mentally ill in trouble with the law navigate three social systems that are in direct opposition to one another: justice, mental health, and corrections. As a result, the definition ought to be amended to read "the branch of psychiatry that

deals with issues arising in the interface between psychiatry and the law, and with the flow of mentally disordered offenders along a continuum of social systems/italic" instead. Forensic psychiatry addresses issues at the intersection of civil and criminal law, as well as those that arise during case evaluations and the creation and implementation of mental health legislation [3].

Penal law

Around the world, there has been an increase in the use of forensic experts in courts of law at various levels of legal action as a result of a better understanding of the connection between mental states and crime. When entering the legal system, there are three primary considerations: application for dangerousness, insanity laws, and fitness to stand trial. The rulings that defenders who are found not fit to stand trial are sent to psychiatric facilities in the hope that their competence to be tried will be restored are the major developments on the issue of fitness to stand trial: The question that clinicians must answer is what criteria should be used to predict restorability of competence, which should be determined by an adequate response to treatment. Legal tests used to determine whether the impact of mental illness on a person's ability to comprehend or appreciate the nature of a crime can be used to declare an offender "not criminally responsible because of a mental condition," "not guilty by reasons of insanity," or any other phrase used in different countries are known as "insanity regulations. Forensic experts are typically required to provide courts with technical and scientific information on risk assessment and prediction of future violence for applications to declare a person a "dangerous offender [4].

Civil law

Assessments by psychiatrists and other mental health professionals

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are frequently required in civil law cases to determine whether one party has mental or emotional issues. These kinds of tests are required in a variety of situations, including tests to determine the impact of injuries on a third party involved in a car accident, tests to determine the ability to write a will or enter into contracts, psychological autopsies to determine testamentary capacity in cases of suicide or sudden death, tests to determine fitness for work, and, more recently, tests to determine access to benefits that are included in disability insurance in many countries. The issue at hand in the majority of these instances is the evaluation of impaired individuals' ability to make independent decisions or the determination of their capacity and competence to perform some function. A finding of incompetence or incapacity becomes a matter of social control used to justify the application of social restrictions to a specific individual. Because of this, doctors have a greater moral responsibility to ensure that the best clinical evidence is used to make decisions [5].

Materials and Methods

Forensic mental health nursing is a specialized area of nursing that involves the intersection of psychiatry and law. It focuses on the care and treatment of individuals who have mental health issues and are involved with the criminal justice system. The field requires an understanding of both mental health and legal principles. When it comes to the materials and methods used in forensic mental health nursing, several key components are involved. These may include:

Assessment: Forensic mental health nurses conduct comprehensive assessments of individuals involved in the criminal justice system to evaluate their mental health status, risk factors, and treatment needs. This assessment may involve interviews, observations, and the review of medical records and legal documents [6].

Diagnostic Evaluation: Forensic mental health nurses are responsible for conducting diagnostic evaluations to determine the presence of mental disorders in individuals within the legal system. This process may involve using standardized assessment tools and diagnostic criteria.

Treatment Planning: Based on the assessment and diagnostic evaluation, forensic mental health nurses develop individualized treatment plans for their patients. These plans may include psychopharmacological interventions, psychotherapeutic interventions, and other supportive services [7].

Medication Management: Forensic mental health nurses may play a role in prescribing, administering, and monitoring medications for individuals with mental health issues in the criminal justice system. They collaborate with psychiatrists and other healthcare professionals to ensure the appropriate use of medications.

Therapeutic Interventions: Forensic mental health nurses provide therapeutic interventions to address the mental health needs of individuals involved in the criminal justice system. These interventions may include individual counseling, group therapy, and crisis intervention techniques [8].

Risk Assessment and Management: Forensic mental health nurses assess the risk of violence or self-harm in individuals with mental health issues and develop strategies to manage and minimize these risks. They work closely with other professionals, such as forensic psychologists and social workers, to develop safety plans and implement appropriate interventions.

Collaboration and Consultation: Forensic mental health nurses collaborate with multidisciplinary teams, including psychiatrists,

psychologists, social workers, and legal professionals, to provide comprehensive care for individuals in the criminal justice system. They may also serve as expert witnesses in legal proceedings, providing their professional opinions and insights [9].

Education and Support: Forensic mental health nurses provide education and support to individuals with mental health issues, helping them understand their conditions, treatment options, and legal rights. They may also provide education and training to other healthcare professionals, law enforcement personnel, and legal professionals regarding mental health issues and their intersection with the law

Result

For specific results or information on a particular case or research study, it would be best to consult relevant scholarly literature, forensic mental health nursing professionals, or legal authorities. They can provide the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding specific results in the field of psychiatry and law within the context of forensic mental health nursing.

Conclusions

We have identified four epochs in the formation of legal-psychiatric thought. The first two events were used to highlight the expanding scope of forensic psychiatry in virtually all areas of criminal law and in a large number of civil law contexts. They were the evolution in understanding and appreciation of the relationship between mental illness and criminality and the subsequent changes in the various tests of legal insanity. The activities of forensic psychiatrists outside of courts were affected by the two most recent moments, which were shifts in public attitudes and perceptions of mental illness and new treatment methods that offer alternatives to incarceration. These activities include developing and putting mental health legislation into effect, figuring out how their knowledge of systems helps mentally ill offenders navigate three hostile social systems, and figuring out how they ought to be involved in protecting the human rights of mentally ill offenders and the mentally ill as a whole [10].

Forensic psychiatry practitioners now play a more prominent role in society. They now have a responsibility to ensure that they continue to be the best doctors and that their ethics and motivations are untouchable.

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