Stigma: A Concept Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Stigma is a psychological burden that usually is misunderstood by the occurrence of many diseases. Health care professionals not only have to care the physiological disorders of patients, but also the psychological impacts of the illnesses on patients. In a way, it makes treatment more difficult. Lots of literatures and researches that address the influence of stigma towards diseases, however, systematic conceptual analysis is still lacking. Based on the works of Walker and Avand (1995), literatures were reviewed to establish the definition of “Stigma”. The purpose of this article aimed to help nursing staff better understand the concept of stigma, and apply the knowledge to their professional activities.

Key words: stigma, concept analysis.