

Glossary of Terms Used by NANDA

Nursing Diagnoses

Nursing Diagnosis: A clinical judgement about individual, family, or community responses to actual or potential health problems/life processes. A nursing diagnosis provides the basis for selection of nursing interventions to achieve outcomes for which the nurse is accountable.

Actual Nursing Diagnosis: Describes human responses to health conditions/life processes that exist in an individual, family, or community. It is supported by defining characteristics (manifestations, signs and symptoms) that cluster in patterns of related cues or inferences.

Risk Nursing Diagnosis: Describes human responses to health conditions/life processes that may develop in a vulnerable individual, family, or community. It is supported by risk factors that contribute to increased vulnerability.

Wellness Nursing Diagnosis: Describes human responses to levels of wellness in an individual, family, or community that have a readiness for enhancement.

Components of a Diagnosis

Label: Provides a name for a diagnosis. It is a concise term or phrase that represents a pattern of related cues. It may include modifiers.

Definition: Provides a clear, precise description; delineates its meaning and helps differentiate it from similar diagnoses.

Defining Characteristics: Observable cues/inferences that cluster as manifestations of an actual or wellness nursing diagnosis.

Risk Factors: Environmental factors and physiological, psychological, genetic, or chemical elements that increase the vulnerability of an individual, family, or community to an unhealthy event.

Related Factors: Factors that appear to show some type of patterned relationship with the nursing diagnosis. Such factors may be described as antecedent to, associated with, related to, contributing to, or abetting.