

## Abstract: Gender Roles in Women Adapting to Chronic Illness

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- D) Title of Abstract: Gender Roles in Women Adapting to Chronic Illness
- E) Body of Abstract:

Chronic illnesses are among the most prevalent and demanding challenges in healthcare and personal experience of health today. Women may be especially likely to experience disability as a result of chronic illness (Wendell, 2001), they are twice as likely as men to serve as caregivers to those with chronic illness (National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP, 2004), and they are more likely to experience multiple chronic conditions than men (Anderson). Estimates suggest that chronic illness is the leading cause of death worldwide (WHO, 2011) and the leading cause of illness, disability, and death in the United States (Anderson). Chronic illness is experienced as a crisis for many and may involve processes of grief and role transitions. Given the multiple roles of women in families and society, the authors argue for examination of gender role norms and ideologies that may come into play when women adapt to chronic illness. Women continue to serve as primary caregivers for children, aging parents, and partners, and adapting to chronic illness in herself or a significant other complicates these roles. These adaptations will be explored using the Fennell Four Phase Treatment Model and instrumentation (2003) with sociocultural and interpersonal factors in mind.

- F) Keywords: Chronic illness, Fennell Four Phase Model, gender role norms, women and illness, FFPM, FFPT

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