

# International Conference on Psychiatric & Geriatrics Nursing and Stroke

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## No more nightmares: how to use planned dream intervention to end nightmares?

Planned dream intervention (PDI) is a highly effective and rapidly learned skill that teaches the dreaming brains how to sleep through nightmares, developed by Dr. Beverly Dexter in 2001 and taught to thousands of clients (including in an active combat zone), health care providers and educators around the world. PDI is dramatically different from previous therapies that require multiple sessions, an established therapy relationship, continued follow up if more disturbing events occur, and is much more acceptable to the large percentage of nightmare sufferers who would never pursue traditional therapy or who might not have in-person access to therapy. Briefly, the successful PDI is: an intuitive emotional-gut creation; may not necessarily be the first thing the individual thinks of; the 'emotional volume' of the effective PDI matches that of the dream at the point where the dreamer woke up; the successful PDI is not re-writing the dream - it kick-starts the person back into the dream with a sense of mastery; if the dream is about a real life event, the PDI that will work may not necessarily appear to be related to what the dreamer would like to have happen in real life; and effective dream interventions can be created from physical sensations or emotions, even when the individual does not remember actual dream content. PDI training creates a mastery experience allowing the dreamer to sleep through any dream without waking or acting out dream content, now and in the future.

### Biography

Beverly Ann Dexter has retired from US Navy as a Commander. She has over 35 years of military experience, served on four shipboard tours, and tours with US Marines and Special Forces stateside, and Joint Service with US Marines and US Army in Iraq. She is a Leader in the treatment and prevention of trauma; she founded Military Special Interest Groups for the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, and the EMDR International Association. In continuing humanitarian work, she also has provided Planned Dream Intervention training at no cost, to groups in England, India, Israel, Zimbabwe, Australia, Canada and across the US.

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