To test the reliability and validity of a new theoretically developed measure, Moral Comfort Questionnaire (MCQ).

### METHODS

- **Design:** Cross-sectional psychometric research design
- **Sample & Setting:** 140 acute care staff nurses working on an inpatient nursing units and in the ED in 7 South Florida not-for-profit hospitals participated in this pilot study.
- **Recruitment:** 1) Flyers posted on nursing units, 2) Invitations to participate at staff meetings, via electronic mail, and by personal invitation.
- **Data Collection:** Participants completed 2 self-report surveys: 1) 28-item MCQ (new), 2) 21-item Moral Distress Scale – revised (MDS-R) (Cronbach’s α = .88).
  - Each participant received a $15 Amazon gift card.**
  - One hospital system did not allow nurses to receive compensation.
- **FAU IRB approval** obtained on 8/23/17. Data were collected between August 2017 through June 2018.

### RESULTS (continued)

- **EXPLORATORY FACTOR ANALYSIS:**
  - **FAU IRB approval** obtained on 8/23/17. Data were collected between August 2017 through June 2018.
- **FAU IRB approval** obtained on 8/23/17. Data were collected between August 2017 through June 2018.

### RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test-Retest Reliability</td>
<td>$r = .769$, $p &lt; .001$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Consistency</td>
<td>Cronbach’s α = .831$^1$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content Validity Index (CVI)</td>
<td>CVI = .84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discriminant Validity: MCQ/MDS-R Frequency</td>
<td>$r = -.193$, $p = .055$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discriminant Validity: MCQ/MDS-R Intensity</td>
<td>$r = .085$, $p = .402$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
1. Deleting MCQ item 2 resulted in a Cronbach’s α of .851

### DISCUSSION

- **Further exploration of the concept of moral comfort is needed as a stepping stone to investigating ways to promote moral comfort in nurses.**
- **The MCQ provides an instrument that may be used in future research studies designed to explore moral comfort in nurses.**
- **Factors 1, 2, 4, and 5 aligned theoretically with moral comfort dimensions found in the literature, however, factor 3 did not.**
- **An imbalance of the number of items loading onto each factor was noted potentially requiring deletion of redundant items for factors with more items and addition of items to factors with less items.**
- **Revision, addition, and deletion of items will be made prior to further testing of the MCQ.**
- **The small sample size was a limitation of this pilot study.**
- **Results support further psychometric testing of a revised version of the MCQ on a larger sample size (minimum 10 participants per item).**

---

**Notes:**
1. Deleting item 2 resulted in a Cronbach’s α of .784 for factor 2
2. Overall MCQ reliability: Deleting MCQ items 2, 3, 4, 5, 22, 23 resulted in a Cronbach’s α of .845

---

**Corresponding Author:** Natalie Bermudez - nbermude@health.fau.edu

**Funding received through a Vcan PhD Student Scholar Grant**

Pilot study references are available upon request