



NURSE EDUCATORS, NURSING STUDENTS, AND
LICENSED NURSES KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES
OF COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE
MEDICINE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Background

- Diverse Use
 - Complementary Alternative Medicine (CAM) involves various medical healthcare systems, practices, and products outside of conventional medicine (National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health [NCCIH], 2016).
- Diverse Populations (Hall et al, 2017; Engebretson, 1999)
- Diverse CAM Methods
 - Acupuncture
 - Biofeedback
 - Massage therapy
 - Meditation (NCCIH, 2016)

Significance of Problem

- Evidence reveals lack of knowledge and attitudes of nurse educators, nursing students, and licensed nurses (Hall et al., 2017; Mahan, Mao, & Brinkley, 2013; Uzun & Tan, 2004; Zoe et al., 2014)
- How can nurses affect this population?
- Why this area of study?
 - A gap still exists between knowledge and integration of CAM (Trail-Mahn et al., 2013).

Purpose

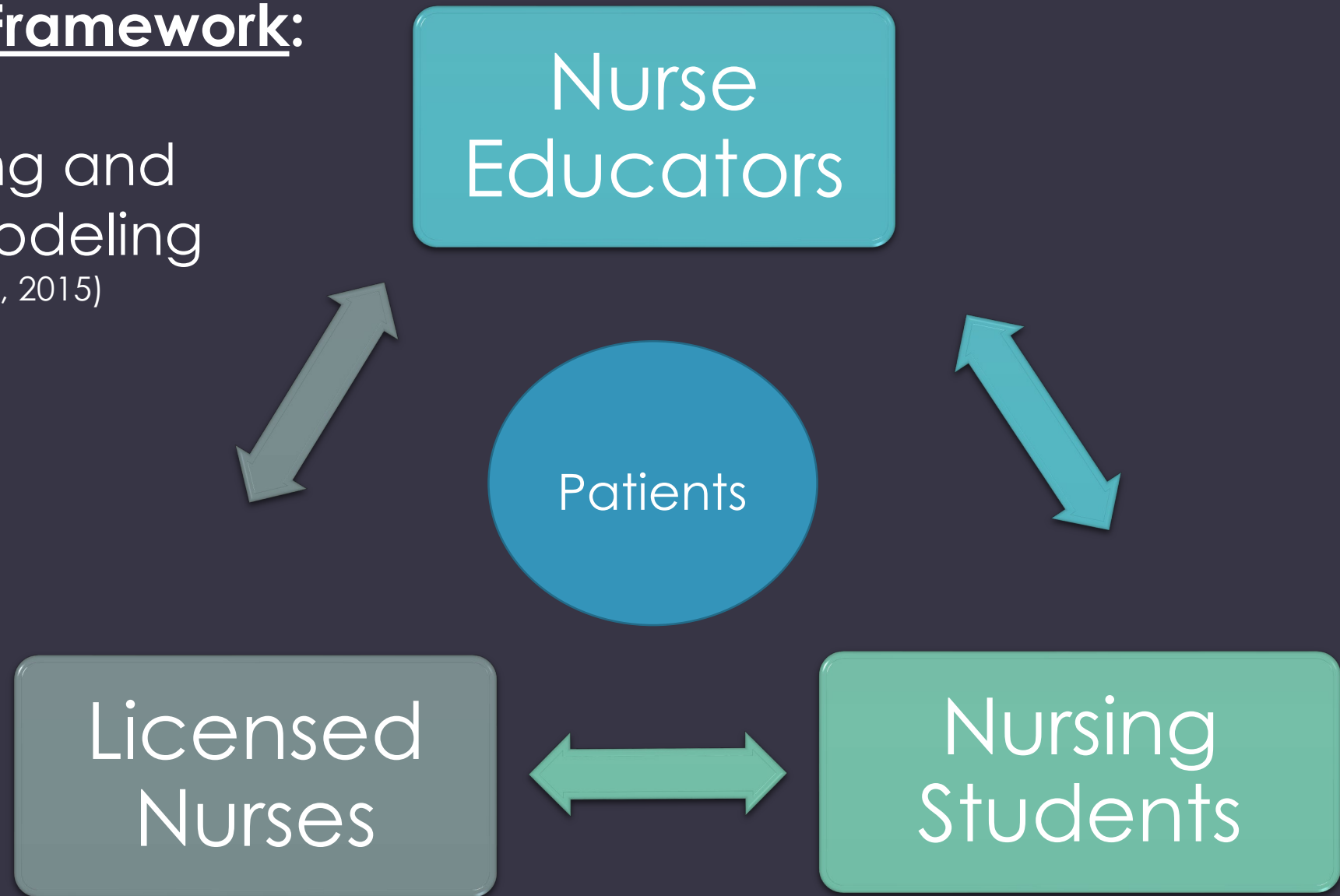
- To assess the knowledge and attitudes of nurse educators, nursing students, and licensed nurses regarding complementary and alternative medicine.

Goal

- To provide baseline information to integrate CAM at the novice nursing student level to carry out, through Modeling and Role-Modeling, as a practicing licensed nurse providing patients with alternatives to conventional medicine therapies (All good, 2014).

Theoretical Framework:

Modeling and
Role – Modeling
(All good, 2015)



Specific Aims

- Aim 1. Assess the knowledge and attitudes of nurse educators, nursing students, and licensed nurses regarding CAM.
- Aim 2. Determine if there is a difference between the 3 nursing groups of knowledge and attitudes regarding CAM.

Methodology

- Descriptive Cross-sectional
- LU Nursing (students/faculty) and Organizational Community Web pages (American Nurses Association, Texas Nurses Association, and Sigma)
- Convenience Sample (n = 228)
- Participants (n = 180) completed the survey
 - Females (n = 168), Males (n = 12)
 - Nurse Educators (n = 37)
 - Nursing Students (n = 57)
 - Licensed Nurses (n = 86)

Data Collection

- Surveys were emailed or posted on the web pages via Quilter weblink
- Embedded in the Web link:
 - Consent
 - Demographics
 - 10 Item – CAM Health Belief Questionnaire [Cranach's α of 0.75 in medical students] (Lie & Booker, 2004).
 - Cranach's α 0.85 for these participants
 - Opportunity for the participants to enter a drawing for a \$50 VISA card and receive study results

Results

Specific Aim 1: Knowledge and Attitudes

Table 1							
<i>Nurse Educators, Nurse Students, and Licensed Nurses CAM Scores (n = 180)</i>							
	Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CAM Score	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-60
Total # of Participants	0	1	3	7	53	71	45
<i>Note. CAM = Complementary Alternative Medicine Health Belief Questionnaire; (#) = number of participants.</i>							

Specific Aim 2: Differences Between Groups

Table 2

Nurse Educators, Nurse Students, and Licensed Nurses CAM M Score Rank (n = 180)

	Groups	N	Kruskal-Wallis M Rank*
Total CAM	Nurse Educator	37	99.8
	Nurse Student	57	74
	Licensed Nurse	86	97.4

Note. CAM = Complementary Alternative Medicine Health Belief Questionnaire, N = number of participants, M = Mean, (*) = $\chi^2(2, n = 180) = 8.36, p = .015$.

Specific Aim 2: Differences Between Groups

Table 3

Differences Between Groups

	Groups		
	NE/NS	NS/LN	NE/LN
Mann-Whitney U	751	1818.5	1549.5
Wilcoxin W	2404	3471.5	5290.5
Z	-2.351	-2.611	-0.229
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	0.019*	0.009**	0.819

Note. NE = Nurse Educator, NS = Nurse Student, LN = Licensed Nurse, * $p = .05$, ** $p = .01$.

Significance to Nursing

- The overall knowledge and attitudes towards CAM were high with 94% scoring above the midpoint for the use of CAM.
- Interestingly, 35% of the participants could not recall any education regarding CAM.
- Only 10% of the participants were opposed to using CAM in their nursing practice.
- CAM is not a threat to the public (56%) and should be incorporated into the patient care process to the extent of the patient's expectations (76%).

Limitations and Recommendations

Limitations

- Cross-sectional study
- Convenience sample
- Generalizability

Recommendations

- Stratified Randomization
- Multi-site data collection
- Diverse setting
- Larger sample

Conclusions

- The results represent a baseline level of the knowledge and attitudes of nurses regarding CAM and reveal its utilization in practice.
- Education is needed for all levels of nursing towards the appropriate and safe utilization of CAM modalities in nursing.
- CAM should be discussed and implemented to the practitioner and patients level of expectation.
- Further studies are needed to validate findings.

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