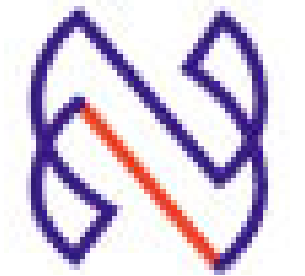


Using the Competence Scale for Senior Clinical Nurses to Examine Safe Staffing

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Background

We developed the Competence Scale for Senior Clinical Nurses (CS-SCN)¹. The CS-SCN comprises five factors: “Role accomplishment”, “Self-management”, “Research”, “Practice and coordination”, and “Work implementation”. Measuring competence is important to achieve safe and appropriate nurse staffing.

Objective:

To examine whether the CS-SCN is a useful marker of appropriate nurse staffing.

Results

No competence scores showed significant differences, but distributions for the competence score of wards by box plot were different. With regard to the total score (range:22-88) of all factors, the highest level was 86, and the lowest level was 35. Score ranges were 7–28 for “Role accomplishment”, 2–8 for “Self-management”, 2–8 for “Research”, 5–20 for “Practice and coordination”, and 6–24 for “Work implementation”. Mean total score was 61.2 (range, 45–76) for highest-level ward and 49.5 (range, 42–61) for lowest-level ward.

Methods

A cross-sectional questionnaire survey using the CS-SCN was undertaken at a hospital in Japan in 2013. Subjects comprised 219 senior clinical nurses defined as those with 5 years of clinical experience. Total score for each factor was calculated by wards. We compared competence scores for each factor by ward. We tested whether differences in scores were statistically significant by Kruskal-Wallis test, and distributions were tested by box plot.

Conclusions

The results suggest that CS-SCN offers useful scale for measuring safe nurse staffing.

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Reference

1 Itsuko Akamine, Miyoko Uza, Masaki Shinjo, Eri Nakamori. Development of competence scale for senior clinical nurses. Japan Journal of Nursing Science, 10(1), 55-67, 2013.

COI declaration

We declare that have no conflict of interest.