Psychometric Testing of the Presence of Nursing Scale: Patient Perceptions of Nursing Presence Capability in an Academic Medical Center

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Problem Statement:
Clear, valid visual instruments are needed to teach, measure and preserve Nursing Presence Capability.

Study Process/Method:
Non-experimental, correlational, quantitative research design with two aspects:
1) instrument psychometrics, and
2) inpatient correlational study to evaluate nurse-sensitive measures with nursing presence.

Sample/Setting:
10 non-intensive, acute care nursing units - 122 subjects
Test-retest reliability - 21 subjects
Divergent validity - 13 subjects
Setting: Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center Winston-Salem, NC.

Measures:
Patient Demographic and Satisfaction form (Presence of Nursing Scale (PONS) – Revised)

Historical data on four nursing-sensitive HCAHPS nurse satisfaction items:
• Treat you with courtesy & respect?
• Listen carefully to you?
• Explain things in a way you could understand?
• Get help as soon as you wanted?

Unit-Specific Nursing Workforce Data Collection Tool
• Avg. RN experience level and age
• % of RN educational level (ADN, BSN, MSN)
• Annual RN turnover rate.

FINDINGS:

Reliability & Validity:
Internal consistency reliability of the PONS-R (r = .974)
Test-retest reliability (Pearson’ r = .791, Spearman’s rho = .872) both statistically significant at the .01 level.
Construct validity (PONS-R to HCAHPS) (r = .736, significant at the .01 level).
Divergent validity: independent t-tests between divergent sample and remaining sample. (p<.002).
The magnitude of the differences was moderate (eta squared = .06).

Exploratory factor analysis: Varimax Rotation & Oblimin Rotation (2 factor forced)

Conclusions:
Presence of Nursing Scale - Revised Psychometrics
• Reliability and construct validity supported
• Positively correlated to concurrent HCAHPS(NS)
• Negatively correlated to unit-specific historical HCAHPS(NS).

Exploratory Factor Analysis: One strong factor = ONE concept. Secondary, weak factor “Intimacy Factor”

Nursing Presence positively correlated with units with:
• Younger nurses
• Less experienced (statistically significant)
• Higher % Associate degree nurses (statistically significant)

Nursing presence was NOT correlated significantly with any patient demographic category.

Future Research/ Recommendations:
1. Patient & nurse perception studies in different communities.
2. Correlational studies of additional patient quality outcome measures.
3. Student-focused studies of nursing presence capability using pre-immersion and post-immersion experiences.

References:
Available upon request

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