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Psychometric Properties of the Self-Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship Scale

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Background

• The nurse-patient relationship is the basis of psychiatric nursing.
• The use of self defines nursing as an interactive, exploratory, caring, and health promoting process.
• No tool has been developed to determine specific areas for competency building using the principles of developing an interpersonal relationship.

Methods/Instrument Development

• Scale Development — The items were developed based on Peplau’s interpersonal theory and extensive literature review conducted in 2003 and piloted in 2004.
• Face Validity — A team of five experts refined the scale by removing constructs not related, as identified through statistical evaluation of pilot study.
• Measures — Each item statement on the scale delineates areas of strengths and areas for personal growth (SA—strongly agree, A—agree, NS—not sure, D—disagree, SD—strongly disagree).
• Sample — 248 subjects enrolled in the study were English speaking men and women between the ages of 18–55.

Data Analysis/Results

• SPSS version 14 — statistical significance set at $p < 0.05$
• Factor Analysis — the interpersonal relationship and competencies
  • Subscales identified
    • receptive
    • core
    • complimentary
  • Chronbach’s Alpha — .8989
  • Split-half Reliability — .9167
  • Interclass Correlation Coefficient
    • $F$ value = 14.79
    • $p = .0000$
    • CI = .91–.94

Discussion

• High level of association within the total scale and subscales
• Interclass correlation coefficient identifies questions are tightly correlated
• Competency subscales categorize:
  • Competencies necessary to engage in the interpersonal process
  • Competencies related to facilitate the interpersonal process
  • Competencies which establish a true bond through the nurse-patient interpersonal process

References


Subscales

Receptive Traits: S.D.
- Honest/sincere .64
- Respect uniqueness .60
- Focus on client issues .62
- Convey worth .64
- Communicate understanding .64
- Convey empathy .64
- Listen to client perspective .65

Core Traits:
- Help with problem solving .66
- Questions facilitate communication .67
- Recognize ineffective responses .69
- Achieve goals .69
- Help client meet goals .70
- Establish achievable goals .70
- Understand client reaction .71
- Change to respond more effectively .71
- Accept powerful emotion .72
- Gather data .72
- Identify strength/weakness .74
- Consistently maintain boundaries .75

Complimentary Traits:
- Relationship therapeutic/not social .76
- Discuss incongruence .77
- Help acknowledge progress .81
- Focus on interpersonal relationship (IPR) .81
- Available as resource .81
- Do not use IPR to solve problems .81
- Help patient with unmet goals .81
- Free of bias .82
- Determine long/short term goals .82
- Discuss termination openly .85
- Explain roles .85
- Self-disclose appropriately .90