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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.

Purpose

- The specific aims of the study were two-fold:
 - Establish the reliability and validity of the Self-Assessment of the Interpersonal Relationship Scale (SAIRS)
 - Determine the ability of SAIRS to measure student nurses development of interpersonal competencies with patients

Methods/Instrument Development

- Scale Development — The items were developed based on Peplua’s interpersonal theory and extensive literature review completed 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

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Subscales

Receptive Traits:	S.D.
Honest/sincere	.54
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