Validating a Proposed Nursing Diagnosis of Longing Using Expert Nurses

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Background
- This study is phase 2 of a three-step process to create a nursing diagnosis for the human response of longing in patients.
- Phase 1 was a concept analysis of the literature which provided defining characteristics and related factors, the framework for nursing diagnoses.
- Phase 2 incorporates the identifiers found in phase 1 to create a survey for nursing experts.

What is a nursing diagnosis?
- Nursing diagnoses are tools to communicate patient needs to other nurses and health care providers.
- Patients are assessed and assigned diagnoses which help a nurse plan care that is personalized to the patient’s needs, which may be physical, emotional, relational, spiritual, or other.

Research Questions
- 1. To what extent are the defining characteristics of longing present in patients?
- 2. Is the definition of longing developed during Phase One accurate?
- 3. In what situations is longing seen in patients?

Methods
- Fehring’s (1986) Diagnostic Content Validity Model.
- Expert nurses rate the defining characteristics on a five point Likert scale.
- Weighted ratio formula is used to identify major and minor defining characteristics.
- Minor characteristics have a weight of 0.5 – 0.79.
- Major characteristics have a weight of 0.8 – 1.0.
- Qualtrics is used as the survey tool.
- Of the respondents only those meeting expert criteria are used.

Sample

Longing Definition
- Longing is the intense desire for something, some state, or some relationship without which one’s life feels incomplete.
- 35 (98%) agreed with the definition.

Discussion of Findings
- The participants could identify that Longing is a human response they have seen in patients.
- Major characteristics (>0.80) not identified.
- Most participants worked in Medical/Surgical acute care setting.
- Any life-threatening or life-changing diagnoses are more likely to be found in other settings (e.g. oncology, rehabilitation).
- As in pain research, nurses may be under-diagnosing longing in patients.
- Still need patient’s perspective.

Limitations
- Low return rate.
- Inability to send reminder emails.
- Population of patients cared for may not experience longing making it difficult for nurses to recognize longing.

Future Research
- Survey patients for their experiences of longing.
- Develop and test assessment strategies to identify longing in patients.
- Develop and test intervention strategies to treat longing in patients.

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References:
- University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire