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Authors: Kirsi Kivelä, Satu Elo, Maria Kääriäinen

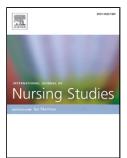
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Title: Frequent Attenders in Primary Health Care: A Concept Analysis

The corresponding author:

Kirsi Kivelä^{*} MNSc, Research Unit of Nursing Science and Health Management, University of Oulu, Finland, P.O.Box 5000, 90014 University of Oulu Tel. +358 503 585 876 E-mail: kirsi.kivela@dnainternet.net

Author affiliations:

Satu Elo Adjunct Professor, PhD, Consultant, Research Unit of Nursing Science and Health Management, University of Oulu, Oulu University Hospital, Finland, P.O.Box 5000, 90014 University of Oulu

Maria Kääriäinen

Professor, PhD, Consultant, Research Unit of Nursing Science and Health Management, University of Oulu, Oulu University Hospital, Finland, P.O.Box 5000, 90014 University of Oulu

*Corresponding Author: Kirsi Kivelä

Abstract

Objectives: Frequent attendance is a well-known phenomenon in health care systems. A small proportion of patients make a high rate of visits to primary health care physicians. However, due to the diversity of this phenomenon, there is no generally accepted definition of the frequent attender. The aim of this analysis was to define the concept of the frequent attender in primary health care. Design: A concept analysis.

Data sources: The literature was searched using electronic databases (MEDLINE, CINAHL, and Scopus) and a manual search was performed for studies published from 2000-2016. The inclusion criteria covered frequent attenders in primary health care examined by quantitative or qualitative studies published in English or Finnish.

Review methods: Walker and Avant's (2010) strategy for concept analysis was used. Uses of the concept were studied, and attributes, antecedents, and consequences of the concepts were defined. Results: A total of 59 articles provided data for this concept analysis. Four defining attributes of frequent attenders were identified: the feelings of symptoms, perceived poor health status, lower quality of life and frequent visits to a primary health care provider. Antecedents included the patient's individual characteristics, the primary health care system, and the patient-physician relationship. Consequences were divided into two categories: those for frequent attenders and those

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