



Original article

Development of the Perspectives on Caring for Older Patients scale: Psychometric analyses



Patricia M. Burbank, DNSc, RN, FAAN^{a,*}, Gary J. Burkholder, PhD^b, Joan Dugas, MS, RN^a

^a University of Rhode Island, College of Nursing, 350 Eddy St., Providence, RI 02903, United States of America

^b Walden University, 100 Washington Avenue, Suite 900, Minneapolis, MN 55401, United States of America

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Attitudes
Care for older patients
Gerontological nursing
Instrument development
Older adults
Perspectives on caring
Symbolic interaction

ABSTRACT

Aim: The purpose of these studies was to determine the reliability and validity of the 24 item Perspectives on Caring for Older Patients (PCOP) scale and further develop the scale as a useful tool for measuring nurses' perspectives toward caring for older patients.

Background: Ageism has long been an issue in the U.S. as well as globally and is reflected in the attitudes of nurses caring for older patients. Most research in this area utilizes scales that measure attitudes toward older adults or aging in general which is different from how nurses feel about caring for older patients.

Methods: Instrument development studies using the PCOP scale were conducted involving two independent samples for exploratory and confirmatory analyses. Study 1 included nurses and nursing students from six hospitals in the U.S. while Study 2 included students in a baccalaureate nursing program. Exploratory factor analysis was conducted in Study 1, and confirmatory factor analysis using structural equation modeling was performed in Study 2. A test of structural invariance was used to confirm stability of factor structure across samples.

Results: Exploratory factor analysis using split samples (Study 1) resulted in a PCOP scale with 12 items, and structural equation modeling confirmed a 9-item factor structure. The test for invariance also showed an excellent fit to the data.

Conclusions: The revised nine-item PCOP scale is a reliable and valid tool for use in measuring nurses' perspectives toward caring for older patients in the U.S. and internationally.

1. Introduction

Older adults are the fastest growing age group, comprising approximately 14% of the US population. This number is expected to grow to 20% by the year 2050 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2014) with about 67% of the older adult population expected to be suffering from chronic diseases (CDC, 2013). This rapid growth of the older population is also a global phenomenon occurring in nearly every country in the world. The number of older persons worldwide is expected to more than double exceeding two billion people in 2050 and surpassing the number of children globally for the first time in 2047 (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2013).

With this growing population, older people are also the core business of healthcare, utilizing the most hospital days and a majority of nursing home beds (Mezey, Capezuti, & Fulmer, 2004). As comorbidities increase and health and functional status decline, older adults

present with complex problems that require specialized knowledge, excellent skills, and positive attitudes toward older patients by nurses. Unfortunately, fewer nurses choose to care for older patients or elect advanced education in gerontological nursing (Swanlund & Kujath, 2012). This is a worldwide workforce problem that seems to stem from a pervasive negativity toward caring for older patients (Koh, 2012).

Despite their large numbers, older adults are viewed less favorably and more negatively than younger adults, as reported in a meta-analysis of 232 studies examining differences in perception of older and younger people (Kite, Stockdale, Whitley, and Johnson (2005)). Other studies measuring nurses' and nursing students' attitudes toward older adults report more positive attitudes; however, still few nurses choose a career caring for older patients (Sizer, Burton, & Harris, 2016). This may reflect a difference in attitudes toward older people in general and attitudes toward caring for older patients specifically. For instance, nurses may feel positively toward older people both individually and as a group but feel more negatively about caring for ill older patients with

* Corresponding author.

E-mail addresses: pburbank@uri.edu (P.M. Burbank), gary.burkholder@mail.waldenu.edu (G.J. Burkholder).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apnr.2018.07.002>

Received 25 March 2018; Received in revised form 13 July 2018; Accepted 25 July 2018

0897-1897/ © 2018 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

many functional limitations and complex care needs (Lovell, 2006). Baumbusch, Dahlke, and Phinney (2014) found that nurses providing clinical instruction reported significantly lower scores on knowledge and perceptions regarding care of older patients than practice-based nurses, suggesting that such perceptions could influence nursing students.

To explore factors contributing to this negativity and ultimately to develop interventions to change it, a measure of attitudes or perspectives toward caring for older patients needed to be developed and tested. Neville (2015) conducted an analysis of eight existing instruments designed to examine attitudes toward older adults, including the classic Kogan's Attitudes Toward Older People Scale (Kogan, 1961) and the revised Kogan scale (Hilt & Lipschultz, 1999). She concluded, "The availability of a broad range of instruments for assessing attitudes and perceptions is required to advance the field, especially given the rapid growth of the aging population and the implications this will have for the nursing discipline" (p. 187). There is a need for a scale designed to go beyond measuring attitudes toward older adults by assessing perspectives toward *caring for* older adults, arguably of most relevance to nurses and nursing education. This paper describes the development, exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis of the Perspectives on Caring for Older Patients (PCOP) scale. With this instrument, nurses' perspectives toward caring for older patients are viewed as distinct from their attitudes toward older people in general. The importance of understanding the nurse's and nursing student's perspectives is the first crucial step toward designing nursing education and a practice environment which will promote excellence in care of older adults.

2. Background

2.1. Theoretical framework

Symbolic interactionism was used as the theoretical framework for this instrument development. In symbolic interaction, human beings and society are viewed as inseparable, each being understood in terms of the other. Human beings do not simply respond directly to events and situations but assign meaning to them. A person's actions are based on meanings the situations have for him or her rather than on a direct response to the event or situation. Meaning arises out of social interaction and is modified through an interpretative process used by the person (Blumer, 1969). Human beings define situations and then act based on perspectives they hold.

The concept of perspective is an "ordered view of one's world – what is taken for granted about attributes of various objects, events, and human nature. It is an order of things remembered and expected as well as things actually perceived" (Shibutani, 1955, p. 564). Perspectives are dynamic and are defined and altered through interaction with others (Charon, 2009). Reference groups are social units whose perspective the individual shares and who provide a frame of reference for defining future situations. A theoretical definition of perspective toward caring for older patients can be stated in a way that reflects this interactionist approach. It is an ordered view of the situation of caring for older patients derived from meaning ascribed to this situation through interaction with others. The items in the PCOP scale reflect what is understood about the nature and experience of caring for older adults.

Within symbolic interaction, one's colleagues can be viewed as a reference group. Through interaction with this group, a nurse's perspective toward caring for older patients and indeed toward his or her entire job may be redefined. Because perspectives are viewed as dynamic and changing based on one's reference group, it is plausible that one's perspective may be changed through interaction with one's peers as a reference group.

Although much of the research based on a symbolic interactionist perspective utilizes qualitative methods, symbolic interactionism has also been used with quantitative research and measurement of concepts (Kuhn, 1964; Ulmer & Wilson, 2003). Kuhn and McPartland (1954)

developed an empirical measure of self-attitudes using quantitative research. Benzie and Allen (2001) argued for use of symbolic interactionism in nursing research with sound mixed methods that expand the understanding of health behavior. Symbolic interactionism has been utilized throughout the world by nurse researchers as a theoretical base for their studies to explore phenomena where meaning and social context is especially important (Sumlin & Brown, 2017 (U.S.A.); Oliveira Girardon-Perlini, Pacheco Van der Sand, Beuter, & Costa da Rosa, 2017 (Brasil); Svendsen, Moen, Pedersen, & Bjørk, 2016 (Norway); Singh, Iacono, & Gray, 2015 (Malaysia); Smith, Amella, Edlund, & Mueller, 2014 (U.S.A.); Souza et al., 2013 (Brasil).

Symbolic interaction is a social psychological perspective that emphasizes the importance of interaction within social situations. The phenomenon of attitudes, however, is usually conceptualized from a psychological perspective. By utilizing symbolic interaction to view the area of attitudes, emphasis is placed on the dynamic, situation-specific nature of attitudes (called perspectives) as well as on the importance of interaction with others in defining one's perspectives. The key components of interaction and consideration of meaning within the social context of the situation are absent from this psychological perspective. It is perhaps these very issues that may be key to understanding how to improve nurses' perspectives toward caring for older patients.

2.2. Review of the literature

Much research has explored the attitudes of nurses and other professionals toward older people. In a recent review of the literature on nurses' attitudes toward older people care, Rush, Hickey, Epp, and Janke (2017) concluded that nurses held coexisting positive and negative attitudes toward generic and specific aspects of care for older patients. They concluded that nurses' attitudes were complex and contradictory and needed further study individually and collectively. This is exemplified in studies discussed here. Earlier studies generally reported negative attitudes toward older people among nursing students as well as practicing nurses (Campbell, 1971; Gunter, 1971; Kayser & Minnigerode, 1975). However, in a recent review of the literature on attitudes, perspectives, and perceptions toward older people, Neville and Dickie (2014) found that generally, nursing students held positive attitudes toward older patients. Gallagher, Bennett, and Halford (2006) found that nurses had more positive attitudes toward older patients in relation to other hospital staff. Liu, Norman, and While (2013) also found that most studies reported student nurses having positive attitudes; however, the authors noted that the findings were inconsistent, as other researchers reported negative or neutral attitudes as well (e.g., see Courtney, Tong, & Walsh, 2000; McLafferty, 2005). Zhang, Liu, Zhang, Meng, and Liu (2016) found medium-low mean attitude score among a sample of undergraduate nursing students in China, and Chi, Shyu, Wang, Chuang, and Chuang (2016) noted neutral to slightly favorable scores for willingness to care for the elderly. Swanlund and Kujath (2012) found that 41% of the first-year nursing students studied held negative stereotypes of older adults, decreasing to 28% in year four of their educational program.

In general, research in countries outside of the United States has supported positive attitudes toward elderly persons. Zhang et al. (2016) found in a sample of undergraduate nursing students in China that attitudes toward older people was significantly correlated with care willingness, a construct developed to reflect level of caring for the elderly. Chi et al. (2016) demonstrated through multiple regression analysis that knowledge was a positive predictor of willingness to care for the elderly. In their review of the influence of theory and practice on perceptions about caring for ill older people, Sizer et al. (2016) found that in cultures where older people are respected, attitudes toward care of older ill people are generally positive. This claim reflects studies reviewed from Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Taiwan, Malawi, and Thailand.

Zverev (2013) found that approximately 92% of the nursing and medical students in Malawi reported positive attitudes toward the

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/8567443>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/8567443>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)