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## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# The Person Centered approach in Gerontology: New validity evidence of the Staff Assessment Person-directed Care Questionnaire



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## KEYWORDS

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Instrumental study

**Abstract** Background/Objective Person centered care is a novel approach which aims to improve care quality in services for older people requiring care. The aim of this work is the adaptation and validation of the *Staff Assessment Person-directed Care (PDC)* in a Spanish population. Method The PDC was applied to a sample of 1,339 direct care professionals from 56 elderly care homes. The psychometric properties were analyzed within the framework of Classical Test Theory and Item Response Theory models. Results The measure showed a high reliability provided by Cronbach's alpha ( $\alpha = .96$ ), the test-retest reliability ( $r = .88$ ), and also an adequate Information Function (highest scores between theta values -2 and +2). The factorial structure of PDC is essentially unidimensional, and confirms the existence of two large dimensions which are in turn expressed in eight highly correlated factors. Especially notable in terms of validity evidence based on relations to other variables are the correlations of PDC with the *The Person-centered Care Assessment Tool* ( $r = .68$ ), organizational climate ( $r = .67$ ), emotional exhaustion ( $r = -.41$ ) and personal accomplishment ( $r = .45$ ). Conclusions The Spanish version of the PDC demonstrates adequate psychometric properties for its use in the evaluation of elderly care facilities, both for professional and research purposes.

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## PALABRAS CLAVE

Atención centrada en la persona; traducción y adaptación; teoría de respuesta a los ítems; clima organizacional; burnout; estudio instrumental

## El enfoque centrado en la persona en Gerontología: nuevas evidencias de validez del Cuestionario de Atención Dirigida a la Persona para la Evaluación de Profesionales

**Resumen** Antecedentes/Objetivos La atención centrada en la persona es un enfoque innovador que busca mejorar la calidad asistencial de los servicios para personas mayores que precisan cuidados. Ante el creciente interés hacia este enfoque es necesario contar con instrumentos de medida que permitan evaluar en qué grado los servicios gerontológicos llevan a cabo una atención centrada en la persona. El objetivo de este trabajo es la adaptación y validación del *Staff Assessment Person-directed Care* (PDC) en población española. Método Se llevó a cabo la traducción y adaptación del PDC al español y se aplicó a una muestra de 1.339 profesionales de atención directa, pertenecientes a 56 residencias para personas mayores. El estudio de las propiedades psicométricas se realizó desde el marco de la Teoría Clásica de los Tests y los modelos de Teoría de Respuesta a los Ítems. Resultados El coeficiente alfa de Cronbach fue de 0,97 y el coeficiente de fiabilidad test-retest de 0,89. La Función de Información indica que la prueba mide de forma precisa para un amplio rango de puntuaciones (valores θ entre -2 y +2). La estructura factorial del PDC es esencialmente unidimensional, confirmándose la existencia de dos grandes dimensiones que se articulan a su vez en ocho factores muy correlacionados. En cuanto a la validez predictiva destacan las correlaciones del PDC con el *The Person-centered Care Assessment Tool* ( $r = 0,68$ ), con el clima organizacional ( $r = 0,67$ ) y con los factores del burnout, agotamiento emocional ( $r = -0,41$ ) y realización personal ( $r = 0,46$ ). Conclusiones La versión española del PDC confirma los resultados encontrados en otras poblaciones, presentando unas excelentes propiedades psicométricas para su uso en la evaluación de residencias de personas mayores, tanto con fines profesionales como de investigación.

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Modern societies are experiencing rapid and increasing ageing all over the world. Consequently, in more developed countries we are seeing a significant development of various professional care services for older people in need of care (Kinsella & Phipillips, 2005; United Nations, 2013). These circumstances have motivated both public and private administrations to control quality, and service providers to put into place processes to improve the care given to this group of people (Dewar & Nolan, 2013). In the process of expanding services traditional facilities have been the object of criticisms such as organizational rigidity, uniformity of care practices and the lack of personalization of care. These factors have a negative impact on a person's wellbeing by limiting their capacity to make decisions, follow their own life plans or live according to their own habits and preferences (Koren, 2010; Misiorski & Kahn, 2005).

The Person-Centred Care (PCC) approach arose out of this context some decades ago. It aims to integrate evidence-based practices with authentic personalization of care and support so that people can retain control over their day to day lives and decisions. In recent years the PCC approach has become established as one of the pillars of quality in elderly care services (Edvardsson, Fetherstonhaugh, & Gibson, 2010; Nolan, Davies, Brown, Keady, & Nolan, 2004). Furthermore, this approach has become a benchmark to guide the transformation of culture in elderly care facilities (Brownie & Nancarrow, 2013; Koren, 2010; Misiorski & Kahn, 2005). Historically, the origin of the PCC approach is usually attributed to Rogers (1961),

however, this concept has been widely developed in various areas and services, including in relation to older people needing care, especially in the field of dementia (Brooker, 2007; Edvardsson, Winblad, & Sandman, 2008; Kitwood, 1997). Despite there being no unified definition of or consensus about this approach, most authors highlight its complexity and multidimensionality (McCormack, 2004; Nolan et al., 2004). First amongst its most often cited components are those directly related to personalized care, that is, the acknowledgement that each person is a valued individual (Brooker, 2007; Kitwood, 1997; White, Newton-Curtis, & Lyons, 2008), the awareness of the life history and lifestyle of the people being cared for (Chappell, Reid, & Gish, 2007; Edvardsson, Fetherstonhaugh et al., 2010; Edvardsson, Koch, & Nay, 2010; White et al., 2008), the promotion of personal autonomy (Chappell et al., 2007; Edvardsson, Fetherstonhaugh et al., 2010; Edvardsson, Koch et al., 2010; White et al., 2008), and organizing day to day life with meaning and significance for the subject (Kitwood, 1997; Sancho & Yanguas, 2014). In addition, dimensions have also been identified which are related to supportive surroundings, such as individualized care (Brooker, 2007; Edvardsson, Fetherstonhaugh et al., 2010; Edvardsson, Koch et al., 2010; Kitwood, 1997), the design of the physical space (Edvardsson, Fetherstonhaugh et al., 2010; Edvardsson, Koch et al., 2010; White et al., 2008), and various organizational variables (Chappell et al., 2007; Edvardsson, Fetherstonhaugh et al., 2010; Edvardsson, Koch et al., 2010; White et al., 2008). In Spain, care homes for older people are still a long way from the PCC approach (Díaz-Veiga

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