Reviewer’s report

Title: Path modeling of knowledge, attitude and practice toward palliative care consultation service among Taiwanese nursing staff: A cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 13 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Anthony Herbert

Reviewer’s report:

The revised manuscript is much improved.

There are still significant problems with English grammar and I have outlined suggestions for improvement below.

I also believe the authors need to try and distinguish further between training for being a haematology and oncology nurse, and what additional training is required to be a palliative care nurse.

It would seem that nursing staff working in a haematology and oncology ward would best know how to treat patients with oncology diagnoses. However, this does not necessarily mean they will provide the best palliative care for patients with non-cancer diagnoses. Also that nursing staff working in a haematology and oncology ward will still need extra training in palliative care and access to palliative care consultation (which the authors do state).

Suggestions for improvement

Abstract

Background

Line 12 "to support" rather than "to provide for"

Line 22 past tense "was to elucidate the"

Line 37 "amongst 284 nursing staff"

Line 51 "working in haematology and oncology wards"

Line 58 "A more positive attitude toward PCCS was associated with working in a haematology and oncology ward"
Line 3 holders of a master's degree

Line 5 Possession of a bachelor degree or above, being single, working within a haematology and oncology ward, and frequency of contact with PCCS positively affected practice toward PCCS.

Line 15 Encouragement staff to undertake further education (e.g. a higher degree) and improve the practice of ward staff providing palliative care

Page 5

Line 4

Because a large number of patients died from malignant tumours, it is important to improve the quality of life and ensure a dignified death of terminally ill patients.

Line 9

Suffering

Line 11

Acute ward settings

Line 13

Primary health care professionals

Line 16

Received better symptom management,

Line 18

The percentage of patients receiving some form of palliative care support during the terminal phase was less than 45 %
However, little is known about the relationship between KAPI

Amongst instead of "in"

Nurse who fulfilled the including criteria

At ward meetings

Participants spent around 15 - 20 minutes (try and keep the tense past)

However, they were able to discontinue the questionnaire and withdraw from the study at any time. Omit "which did not influence their rights"

After completing the questionnaire, participants received a commodity card.

What is a commodity card?

Which consisted of a professor, an assistant professor, a physician, a registered nurse and a social worker all working within the field of palliative care.

Compared to colleagues with an undergraduate degree.

Line 7 omit the word junior college

Line 14
This study found that working within a haematology and oncology ward,

were positive predictors of knowledge towards PCCS.

Working in an oncology ward

Regarding the knowledge aspect of their practice, the majority of nurses reported that recognition of palliative care needs often occurred at the terminal stage, and ten was carefully taken into consideration while dealing with the spiritual and medical needs of the patient.

Nurses who had received training in palliative care and perceived themselves to be knowledgeable in palliative care demonstrated increased awareness of palliative care and could improve the quality of care in terminaly ill patients.

That working in a haematology and oncology ward

were significant positive predictors of the attitude of staff towards PCCS.

Working in an oncology ward or medical word, participated in palliative care training courses, had worked in nursing for a longer duration, had experience in caring for patients and their families at end-of-life expressed a more favourable attitude toward palliative care. Integration of palliative care into the health-care system also influenced attitudes towards palliative care of staff.
Being single, working in a haematology and oncology ward, had positive direct effects.

Having a master's degree had a positive, although indirect effect, on nurse practice …

Being single was associated with positive direct effects on practice towards PCCS in this study.

Single nurses had better …

Amongst Korean nurses

Line 15 to Line 20 is highly speculative and not referenced. I believe this should be left out of the manuscript.

"Nurses working in a haematology and oncology ward were influenced in their practice more by PCCS than those who worked in medical and surgical wards and the ICU. It is likely that nurses working in a haematology and oncology ward had more

The frequency of contact with the PCCS also positively influenced practice and interaction with the PCCS.
In our clinical practice, the primary nurse who contacted the PCCS team members could

Line 3

Non-specialist ward nurses reported a lack of training in relation to cancer care which could impeded the ability to provide high quality nursing care to patients with cancer diagnoses.

Line 13

Because of differences between Chinese and Western cultures, Taiwanese nursing staff may be reluctant to report their true opinions because of concern about being different to colleagues.

Page 19

Line 1

This study suggest that working within a haematology and oncology ward, participation …

:ome 4-5

[New sentence] Working in a haematology and oncology ward .. were significant predictors of attitude towards PCCS.

Line 7

Finally, participation in education related to palliative care and frequency of contact with a PCCS were the key predictors in relation towards practice and interaction with a PCCS.

Line 10

Holding a bachelor degree or above, being single, working within a haematology and oncology ward, and frequency of contact with PCCS directly influenced practice regarding palliative care.

Line 11

Based on the finding sof this study, we suggest nurses should have access to a PCCS team for consultation and the opportunity to discuss patients with requiring palliative care.

Line 15

Enhance the quality of care for patients receiving end-of-life-care.

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If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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