Reviewer’s report

Title: Development and initial validation of an instrument to measure novice nurses’ perceived ability to provide care in acute situations – PCAS

Version: 0 Date: 03 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Renée Allvin

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors,

I commend you for a well-written article and for your work in this interesting area.

Overall evaluation and general comments:
This paper addresses evaluation of novice nurses' ability to provide care in acute situations. The authors develop and examine the psychometric properties of a new self-assessment scale (PCAS). This paper contributes to the knowledge on evaluation of nurses' own perception of their ability to care in acute situations.

Title and abstract:
The title and abstract clearly signpost the content.

Background:
The introduction points out the overall challenge for novice nurses to manage acute care situations, and in line with this the importance of giving them support. Last para, last line - "...To the authors' knowledge there is currently no ..." - Did you undertake a search of the literature or is this based on what the authors are aware of? It will be good to replace this with a more subjective sentence, especially if you had searched the literature prior to the study. There is a clear aim with the study.

Methods:
The concepts/constructs studied are clearly described. In overall, the operationalization process is described in detail with clear references. Item generation: The items were created from interviews with 17 novice nurses. As I understand it, these interviews were performed in previous studies. Although there are references, I think it would be good to clarify this further (the sample is described elsewhere). "Several items were deleted, rewritten and added". - It would be of interest for the reader to have examples of deleted items. Were the items added generated from some other source than the interviews?

Content validity: How were the expert group and the two novice nurses recruited? A 4-point scale was chosen - Which verbal response categories was drafted?

Results:
This paragraph is clearly written. The tables adds information in relation to the text. "No missing data was recorded as the electronic questionnaire could not be submitted if there was any missing data". - From an ethic perspective, I this should be commented on in the Discussion section.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
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.

Yes

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:

Acceptable

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