Development of a Diabetes Interview Tool in Spanish and English Using a Standardized Nursing Terminology

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Background

Nursing scholars and administrators have long posited that data generated by computerized documentation in practice settings will be a useful tool for advancing knowledge of nursing intervention effectiveness. Standardized nursing classifications are nursing’s voice within the computerized electronic health record.

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to develop a diabetes interview data collection tool in Spanish and English for use by students from Canada, Mexico, and the United States participating in a public health nursing exchange program.

Omaha System

The Omaha System was selected for this international educational project in public health nursing and service learning because it exists in the public domain, is available in Spanish and English, and is a comprehensive, holistic assessment tool. The terms for signs/symptoms of Omaha System problems can be used to structure data collection.

Methods

Public health nursing faculty with experience in diabetes assessment and standardized terminologies (KM and AMPG) selected Omaha System signs/symptoms related to diabetes to create an interview data collection tool in English and Spanish. The tool was reviewed by language and content experts, and was pilot tested by students and faculty for student interviews of diabetic patients in Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

Results

All selected signs/symptoms were present in the data from a preliminary sample of five patients from Mexico. An additional symptom was suggested by student interviews (“excessive thirst”).

Discussion

Use of the Omaha System signs/symptoms items as a structured assessment interview data collection tool resulted in quantifiable data that are generated by equivalent standardized terms in Spanish and English. Further research is needed to create standardized care plans for problems identified in the assessment.

Conclusion

Students provided patient quotes from the interviews that validated the signs/symptoms selected on the interview data collection tool. For example:

• Believes harmful myths about treatment: “I am drinking this nutritional supplement to cure my diabetes” (sugar water solution)
• Conflicting spiritual beliefs: “I have prayed for a miracle so that I will not need treatment.”

Acknowledgements

HRSDC (Canada) - Human Resources and Skills Development PROMESAN (Mexico) - Program for Mobility in Higher Education FPSEE (USA) - Fund for Improvement in Post Secondary Education UNIVERSEY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MCE Kim Robertson-Critchley Rosemary Herbert Donna Murnaghan UNIVERSITY AUTÓNOMA DEL ESTADO DE MORELOS Orquídea Benítez Plascencia Alejandra Terrazas Meraz Abigail Fernandez Sanchez

The Omaha System Partnership for Knowledge Discovery and Health Care Quality, Center for Nursing Informatics, University of Minnesota School of Nursing

Interview Quotes

Students gained experience interviewing patients, understanding of diabetes mellitus type 2 assessment and sign/symptom prevalence. The findings of this study will be used to inform terminology development, refine the instrument for re-evaluation, and support future comparison of diabetes signs/symptoms internationally.

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