Grading Concept Map Care Plans: Validity and Reliability

Part II

A prime concern of nurse educators and students is the valid and reliable evaluation of a student’s ability to think critically, communicate, and use appropriate nursing therapeutic interventions within each course. Critical thinking, communication, and nursing therapeutic interventions are major curriculum and instruction core outcome indicators that must be defined and described in terms of observable behaviors and characteristics of students (McCarthy, Schuster, McDougal, & Zehr, 1999). The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (2002) requires measurement of educational effectiveness in critical thinking, communication, and nursing interventions as a component of curriculum and instruction within a systematic program evaluation plan.

Specific learning outcomes and teaching learning strategies must be delineated such as concept map care plans. Learning strategies must be implemented and evaluated to ensure program outcomes have been effectively attained by program graduates. Faculty members are challenged to develop valid and reliable tools such as concept map care plans for clinical evaluation of critical thinking, communication, and nursing interventions (Castellino & Schuster, 2002).

An important aspect of reliability is to standardize procedures for grading concept map care plans. A concept map care plan grading tool is shown in Figure 1. Inter-rater reliability can be established through faculty teaching the same clinical course and individually grading a random sample of care plans at the beginning, middle, and end of the course. To establish reliability, there must be a correlation of .70 or higher between faculty within the course (Politt & Hungler, 2001).

Instrument validity can be established by faculty teaching the same clinical course through evaluation of the relevance of each individual item on the grading tool on a 4-point scale. Percentages of items rated 3 or 4 are computed, and rater score correlations should be .80 or higher (Politt & Hungler, 2001).

Concept Map Care Plans: Work in Progress

Both faculty and students who use the concept map method of care planning have been very pleased with results. Concept map care plans continue to evolve as they are imple-
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Cover the Uninsured Week:
May 10-16, 2004

Cover The Uninsured Week is a national initiative being funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and being supported by a diverse group of former U.S. Surgeon Generals, U.S. Secretaries of Health and Human Services, and former U.S. Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter. This national campaign is planned for May 10-16, 2004, and is focusing on access to health care and the plight of the uninsured. The goal of the event is to bring the issue of the uninsured and possible solutions to the forefront of national discussion through education and community events.

From May 10-16, events will be held across the U.S. so that people can learn more about this critical problem—who is affected, why they are uninsured, the consequences of being uninsured, and how this issue affects every American, not just those who are uninsured.

With former Presidents Ford and Carter once again serving as Honorary Co-Chairs, Cover the Uninsured Week includes a diverse group of organizations representing many sectors of American society, including business, labor, education, health care professionals and insurers, consumers, faith leaders, and the entertainment industry. The NSNA Legislation/Education Committee will be working with the state presidents and members to encourage educational activities during the week of May 10-16 to highlight the issue.

This nationwide event was sponsored and supported by a diverse group of over 800 local and national organizations last year including NSNA. State and local constituencies of NSNA can get involved by planning community events such as health fairs, town hall meetings, or campus lectures to bring this information to the public. It is our hope that all NSNA constituent members can volunteer to make this event a success. Visit http://www.CoverTheUninsuredWeek.org for more information.

Nursing Education Alumni Association/Teachers College Columbia University

41st Annual Isabel Maitland Stewart Conference on Research in Nursing
Friday, April 23, 2004
Teachers College Columbia University

Research and Knowledge Discovery:
Emerging Themes

Speakers
Jacqueline Fawcett, PhD, FAAN
Professor, College of Nursing and health Sciences
University of Massachusetts
Boston, Massachusetts

Patricia A. Abbott, PhD, RN, BC, FAAN
Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing
Baltimore, Maryland

The planning committee, co-chaired by Barbara Carty, EdD, RN, FAAN, and Diana Newman, EdD, RN, invite all nurses to attend this celebrated conference.
Once you have finished with this newsletter, please pass it along to share with a colleague or friend.
Third Annual Nursing Leadership Lecture Announced

The Foundation of the NSNA (FNSNA) is pleased to announce the 3rd Annual Nursing Leadership Lecture sponsored by a special fund established by members of the 1998 inaugural cohort of the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows Program. The lecture series is on Thursday, April 1, 2004, from 3:45pm - 4:45pm. This program is a national leadership program supported by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The speaker this year is Juliann G. Sebastian, PhD, ARNP, FAAN, Assistant Dean for Advanced Practice Nursing and Professor University of Kentucky College of Nursing, Lexington, KY.

For more information, contact
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