

Accuracy of nursing diagnoses: knowledge, knowledge sources and reasoning skills

European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction
EARLI Bergen, Norway
26 november 2008

Wolter Paans



Hanze University Groningen
Applied Sciences



Research and Innovation Group in Health Care and Nursing

- Introduction
- Background of the studies
- Research questions
- Aims and outline of the studies

- Nursing diagnoses have been taught in nursing education for over 15 years
- Inaccurate nursing diagnoses have negative influences on patient safety
- In the Netherlands, prevalence and accuracy of nursing diagnoses in clinical practice is unknown

Conceptual basis of nursing diagnosis

A nursing diagnosis is defined as:

“A clinical judgment about individual, family or community responses or experiences to actual or potential health problems or life processes” (Gordon 1994, NANDA-I 2009)

Conceptual basis of nursing diagnosis

An accurate, actual nursing diagnosis is documented in the 'PES-Structure' and is related to nursing interventions (I)

(P) = Problem label

(E) = Etiology (related factors)

(S) = Signs / Symptoms

(I) = Intervention

Research questions

- (1) What factors influence the accuracy of nursing diagnoses?
- (2) What is the prevalence of accurate nursing documentation in hospital patient records?
- (3) Do knowledge sources and a predefined record structure affect the accuracy of nursing diagnoses?

Research questions (continued)

- (4) Does ready knowledge influence the accuracy of nursing diagnoses?
- (5) Do dispositions towards critical thinking influence the accuracy of nursing diagnoses?
- (6) Does reasoning skills influence the accuracy of nursing diagnoses?

Study I: Review of the literature

Aim

The aim of this study was to review what factors influence the prevalence and accuracy of nursing diagnosis documentation in hospital practice.

Method

A systematic literature search of the electronic databases MEDLINE and CINAHL for relevant articles published between January 1995 and October 2009.

What factors influence the prevalence and accuracy of nursing diagnoses documentation in clinical practice? A systematic review, Wolter Paans, Roos M.B. Nieweg, Cees P. van der Schans, Walter Sermeus, accepted for publication in *Journal of Clinical Nursing*.

Study I: Review of the literature (continued)

Results

Set I, II, III, and IV after duplicates removed: n= 1032

Papers excluded based on title and abstract: n= 969

Perceived to be relevant to the study based on title and abstract and included for full-text appraisal: n= 63

Papers excluded based on full-text analysis: n= 39

Total papers included: n= 24

Study I: Factors influencing ND (continued)

Hospital policy and diagnostic environment

- *Number of patients
- *Workload level
- *Information structure
- *Medical model

Education & Resources

- *Clinical reasoning
- *Educational background
- *Structured forms
- *Classification structure
- *Computer tools

Factors influencing ND

Patients' complexity

- *Cultural differences in patients' expressing severe diagnoses
- *Severe medical diagnoses
- *Patients' way of expressing diagnoses

Diagnosticians

- *Disposition toward diagnoses
- *Experience
- *Diagnostic knowledge
- *Reasoning skills