The Model of Validity of Pain Management Outcome Evaluation for Tertiary Hospital

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to develop a valid model for an evaluation of the outcome of the pain management at Tertiary hospital. The research was conducted at one tertiary hospital in Phitsanulok province, Thailand between Oct 13, 2015 and Jan 13, 2016. The first step, by an interview, the researcher evaluated the responses of the 30 stakeholders. After that, the data together with the findings from many academic papers and research were synthesized to create a model. The quality of the model was checked by 5 highly educated people. A highly valid model covered 4 components, in which the procedures and the evaluators were different as 1) an evaluation of the threats against the validity of the pain management outcome evaluation, 2) an evaluation at an individual level, 3) an evaluation at a patient ward level and 4) an increase in the validity of the evaluation.

Keywords: Pain management outcome evaluation, Validity in evaluation, Logic models, Metaevaluation

Background and rationale

A pain evaluation is considered one of the crucial treatments for pain. Provided that there is an evaluation and a pain score recorded systematically and continuously, it will be very helpful to the treatment team in following up the after-surgery pain and eventually very effective in curing the pain problem for the patients. However, when looking into many researches, some problems on the pain records and the evaluations were found as follows 1) on the patients : the patients hardly perceived the pain evaluations and the follow ups by the nurses despite the highly well awareness of the nurses. Also, the patients did not understand the procedures of the evaluations, so they tended to give irrelevant information on the pain compared with their present physical expressions. 2) on the health staff personnel : it appeared that the staff did not have adequate knowledge in the treatments and the importance of the pain management. There were also inconsistent pain evaluations. 3) on the equipment used in the process : in some hospitals, there were not enough tools and equipment in the process of the pain evaluations, nor were there any well-covering pain evaluation forms, therefore, many details like the coldness on the skin, the pouring sweats, etc. In some hospitals, there were some but not proper for the cases. 4) on the other areas : there were not any good recording systems, any follow-ups or the pain management outcome evaluations, any quality indicators and any proper actions

Moreover, there was a finding in a study. It showed that a patient talked irreverently compared to the health staff and the bad effect would occur. In case the physicians and the nurses evaluated the level of the pain of the patient lower than that evaluated by the patient himself, the pain reducing medicines would definitely be prescribed under doses or too low for the need of the patient. This; therefore, would not be effective in controlling the pain. On the other hand, when those doctors and the nurses evaluated it more seriously than it was. The result would be the higher doses of the medicine for the patient and that would very much create a negative effect to the patient. Those mentioned mistakes from the pain evaluations revealed that there was a lack of validity in evaluation. The difficulties affecting the validity of the pain evaluations came from the evaluators, the methods including the tools and the procedures. From the said problems on the pain assessment and the pain management outcome evaluation, which paid a direct effect towards the pain therapy as having been presented. The researcher, therefore, come up with the idea to develop a good valid model for an evaluation of the outcome of the pain management at Tertiary hospital. This model focused on controlling all the possible obstacles, which definitely increased the validity of the evaluation.

The purposes of the research

1) To study the present conditions, the obstacles and the needs for the model of pain management outcome evaluation at Tertiary hospital.
2) To create a valid model for an evaluation of the outcome of the pain management at Tertiary hospital.

Protection of human right

This research project was approved by the moral committee of a research on humans, Naresuan University (the project number 536/57)

Data collection method and the results

In this research, a so-called Research and Development method was used with 2 steps of the procedures. The results were as:

The 1st step : to study the present conditions, the obstacles and the needs for the model of pain management outcome evaluation at Tertiary hospital.

The research conduction was operated at Tertiary hospital in Phitsanulok province, Thailand between Oct 13, 2015 and Jan 13, 2016. The samples were those people involved such as 3 who were responsible for evaluating the outcomes of the general pain management at the hospital, 5 hospital executives, 3 surgeons, 9 registered nurses (3 with 1-5 year experience, 3 with 6-10-year experience and 3 with more than 10-year experience), 5 surgeon’s patients and 5 patient’s relatives. The data collection went through 3 procedures as shown in the picture.

The conclusions and the suggestion

The prominent feature of this model was that it was finely combined with 2 concepts : a nursing one as well as an evaluating one. The object of the evaluation, the evaluators and the evaluating methods were different as

- Self-observation
- Patient observation
- Nursing activities observation
- An audit of the patient reports
- The check up on the validity of the evaluation (Random selection of the evaluators and the patient reports)

Moreover, the researcher considering more for support for the users of this new model created a manual book for the model and decided to verify the quality again together with setting a plan to put this model into use, after that it will be an evaluation of this new model considered the coming 3rd and 4th step.

References


Principle of pain assessment.pdf