ABSTRACT

This descriptive study used an adopted questionnaire administered to 50 randomly selected nurses working in the home care setting. It aimed not only to determine the extent of the nurse's skill in assessing the physiologic and behavioral pain responses of nonverbally communicative patients with disorders of consciousness but also to identify encountered problems influencing their skill to assess pain. Simple mean, percentage, inter-rater agreement, and ranking were used to treat the obtained results.

The study found that the majority of the nurse respondents working in the homecare setting were moderately skilled, showing that the respondent can carry out the skill but lacked an understanding of the advanced pain assessment concepts. They are 75% confident that their skill can produce reliable and valid assessment findings hence the need for minimal supervision in certain areas of pain assessment. The extent of their skill can produce reliable and valid assessment findings hence the need for minimal supervision in their weak areas of pain assessment.

Specifically, the respondents are highly skilled in assessing the vital sign changes associated with pain while moderately skilled in assessing the automatic pain responses. On the other hand, they are moderately skilled in assessing behavioral responses to pain in terms of the facial and motor responses while highly skilled in assessing the for sound production or ventilation compliance among patients with an artificial airway.

The extent of their skill could be associated with the influence of the moderately serious problems that they encountered during pain and the moderately serious problems that they encountered during the pain assessment. The action plan and measures proposed to enhance the nurses' skill in pain assessment was based on their identified deficiencies.

After analysis of the results, the researcher concluded that the nurse respondents are proficient in assessing the physiologic and behavioral pain responses of their patients. They could perform pain assessment with minimal cues from the supervisor but requires a few enhancements focused on their weaknesses.

The problems encountered by the nurse respondents were moderately serious but are manageable as it somehow influenced their skill in pain assessment, thus need some correction. The enhancement is possible through the adoption of the proposed action plan and measures focused not only on enhancing the identified deficiencies but also on ways to sustain their skills and avoid potential problems.