

Nurse Practitioners' Knowledge, Experience and Intention to Use Health Literacy Strategies in Practice

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Background and Theoretical Framework

- Paucity of research exploring nurse practitioner providers and their health literacy knowledge
- Less known about NPs' experience with health literacy strategies in practice
- Future use of health literacy strategies with patients was explored using Theory of Planned Behavior as a framework (Fishbein & Ajzen, 1975, 2010)

Research Questions

- What do nurse practitioners (NPs) know about health literacy (HL) and related strategies for clinical practice?
- What health literacy strategies are currently used by NPs in clinical practice?
- What is the intention of NPs to use health literacy strategies in future clinical practice?

Study Methodology/ Instruments

- Descriptive, correlational, quantitative
- **Knowledge** measured with Health Literacy Knowledge and Experience Survey (HLKES), Part I (Cormier, 2006)
- **Experience** measured with Health Literacy Knowledge and Experience Survey (HLKES), Part II, Experience Scale (Cormier, 2006)
- **Intention** measured with Health Literacy Strategies Behavioral Intention (HLSBI) Questionnaire (Cafiero, 2012)

Study Findings

- Demographics:
 - 456 nurse practitioners (NPs) **73% return rate**
 - Sample compared with national profile:
 - Increased number certified
 - Increased number with doctoral preparation
 - More working in primary care
- Knowledge: Poor
 - Overall mean score: 69/100
 - Gaps noted in regard to: HL effect on healthcare status, screening tools for low health literacy and evaluation measures of education materials

Study findings (continued)

- Experience: Some
 - 75% of participants reported “never” or only “sometimes” having HL emphasized in NP curriculum
 - Culturally appropriate *written materials* were most frequently used for patient education
 - 66% of NPs reported “never” or “sometimes” evaluating reading level of written materials
 - Audiotapes, videotapes and computer software were used least often
- Intention: Strong
 - Mean score for each item 5.44 out of 7 Likert scale
 - Higher the score, the greater the likelihood participants intend to use health literacy strategies

Study Findings (continued)

- Significant relationship between Experience and Educational Preparation
 - Doctorally prepared NPs had higher mean scores on *experience* than post-master's prepared NPs ($p = 0.039$)

Practice setting

- Specialty practice NPs had higher mean scores on *experience* than episodic urgent care NPs ($p = 0.008$)

Instrument Reliability

Reliability of instruments	Cormier (2006) with RNs (Cronbach's α)	Cafiero (2012) with NPs (Cronbach's α)
HLKES Part I Knowledge	None reported	.57
HLKES Part II Experience	.82	.69
HLSBI Intention	NA	.76

Study Implications

Knowledge:

- Increase NPs' knowledge of health literacy (HL)

Experience:

- Improve NP evaluation of written patient education materials for use with low HL patients
- Develop HL appropriate patient education materials in other formats

Intention:

- Support intention of NPs to use of health literacy strategies

Future Research

- **Knowledge:**
 - How best to provide NPs with educational opportunities related to health literacy and health literacy strategies
- **Experience:**
 - The relationship between practice settings and use of health literacy strategies
- **Intention:**
 - How best to support intention to use HL strategies
 - Further testing of HLSBI instrument

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