

NURSING RESEARCH REVIEW FORM

1st Review

Manuscript # 2004/212
Manuscript title: Predicting use of specialized hospital discharge planning services
Manuscript type: Regular
Number of text pgs.: 12
Number of figures: 2
Number of tables: 2
Reviewer: Jeri Bigbee
Stat reviewer assigned?: No -- do you recommend a stat reviewer? No

Please evaluate the following with these choices: (1) adequate, (2) inadequate (describe in written review) or (3) not appropriate (describe in written review)

Problem statement: 1
Attention to relevant literature: 2
Theoretical framework: 2
Research design: 2
Data analysis: 2
Discussion of results: 2
Organization: 1
Writing style: 2

Please rate the following topics 1-5 (with 5 being the highest rating):

Value of topic: 3
Probable reader interest in topic: 2
Importance of present contribution to nursing: 3
Priority of topic for publication: 2
Rank this manuscript for its value: 2

Reviewer's Recommendation (please type "X" after your choice):

Accept without revisions
Accept with revisions
Maybe accept with revisions x
Do not accept

Comments for Editor only:

Problem statement:

The author(s) makes a logical case for the need for the development of the screening tool under study. The problem statement could have been more specific as to the relevance of the study to the discipline of nursing.

Attention to relevant literature:

The literature reviewed was timely but limited, due to the nature of the subject. The few related studies cited could have been reviewed and critiqued in greater depth to give the reader a more complete background. Most of the literature cited is from nursing journals, however nursing is not mentioned in the literature review.

Theoretical framework:

No theoretical framework is included and no justification for the lack of a framework is provided.

Research design:

This methodological study used a two-step design, which was appropriate. Relatively large samples were used, however no power analysis information was provided to justify the size of the samples. The sampling method was not clearly explained.

Data analysis:

The sample characteristics are presented clearly, however information related to ethnicity and rural/urban residence was not included, which limits the generalizability and replicability of the study. Appropriate multivariate statistical methods, particularly logic regression, were used and well explained. A major concern with the analysis, however, is the relatively low sensitivity (75.2%) and specificity (78.5%) levels that the researcher(s) used to set “cut points” for scores. These levels of sensitivity and specificity are not consistent with generally acceptable levels for screening tools. No justification for the choice of these levels was provided. Positive and negative predictive value data were also not provided. This additional information would have been helpful, especially given the relatively high prevalence of the “condition” being screened for. A strength of the analysis was the discussion of the false positives and false negatives (page 11) with logical explanations.

Discussion of results:

The summary of the findings was somewhat repetitive of the previous section and could be condensed. The discussion of results appropriately tied the findings to previous research. Limitations were noted in relation to the use of the screening tool, however limitations of the study itself were not acknowledged. Implications for further research were briefly discussed, however implications for education, theory development and policy were not addressed. Unfortunately, nursing is never mentioned in the discussion of the results, which is a concern, given the focus of this journal.

Organization: The manuscript is well organized and flows logically.

Writing style:

The writing style needs to be strengthened. The use of the second person in various parts of the manuscript detracts from the scholarly nature of the paper. There are also problems with typographical errors as well as sentence and paragraph structure. Table I includes too much information, which could be incorporated into the text of the paper.