Psychometric Testing of the Chinese Version of the Readiness for Hospital Discharge Scale

Yu-Hua Lin1* • Chia-Chan Kao2 • A-Mei Huang3 • Mei-Tzu Chi4 • Fan-Hao Chou5

1PhD, RN, Professor, Department of Nursing, I-Shou University; 2PhD, RN, Associate Professor, Department of Healthcare Administration, I-Shou University; 3MS, RN, Department of Nursing, Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital; 4MSN, RN, Supervisor, Department of Nursing, E-Da Hospital; 5PhD, RN, Professor, College of Nursing, Kaohsiung Medical University.

Abstract

Background: Little has been published in the literature regarding how patients self-evaluate their degree of readiness for hospital discharge. Furthermore, there is currently no self-evaluation tool available in Chinese able to assess the discharge readiness of patients.

Purpose: This study was used to psychometrically test the Chinese version of the readiness for hospital discharge scale (RHDS_C).

Methods: This study used a cross-sectional design. Two samples were recruited in a two-stage process at two hospitals in Southern Taiwan. Two hundred and twenty-three patients with a diagnosis of either colorectal cancer or hepatic cancer were used to conduct an exploratory factor analysis (EFA) in the first stage of the study. Another 323 patients with a diagnosis of stroke were used conduct a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA). The instrument used was the Readiness for Hospital Discharge Scale (RHDS) developed by Weiss & Piacentine.

Results: RHDS_C consists of three subscales: personal status (4 items), coping ability (4 items), and expected support (4 items) adapted from the CFA. The assessed goodness-of-fit index (GFI = .92, AGFI = .88, NFI = .97) indicate the model fit the data well based upon the CFA. Criterion-related validity was supported by the correlation between the original RHDS and the RHDS_C (r = .96, p < .001). The Cronbach’s alpha coefficients were .89 for the overall scale and .73, .90, and .89 for the 3 subscales, respectively.

Conclusions / Implications for practice: This study confirms the validity of the RHDS_C and suggests this instrument is able to reliably assess the readiness of patients for discharge from the hospital. We recommend the scale be applied in the clinical setting to evaluate the discharge readiness of hospital patients.

Key Words: discharge readiness, hospital, psychometric testing.