An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

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A Survey of Healthcare Workers on Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Resource Availability, Utilization, and Adherence

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Abstract
The purpose of this study was to examine the current status of safe patient handling and mobility, specifically resource availability, utilization, and adherence to established safe patient handling and mobility standards, and measure any relationships among these factors. This study will build reliability and validity of the adapted American Nurses Association Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Self-Assessment Resource. Responses came from a one-shot survey of healthcare workers in direct patient care, across several private and Veterans Health Administration healthcare organizations in the Midwestern United States. Patient handling and the risk of injury are higher than in many other professions; therefore, it is essential to address current practices and understanding. A nonexperimental, descriptive, one-shot survey design was used to measure safe patient handling and mobility concepts in real-world patient care settings. Survey items assessed the current availability and utilization of safe patient handling and mobility resources, and healthcare organizations’ adherence to safe patient handling and mobility standards. Ninety-four participants participated in the survey from eight healthcare organizations. The participants included registered nurses (n=50), licensed practical nurses (n=2), certified nurse assistants (n=13), and ancillary staff (n=10). Median scores for resource availability (82.14), utilization (83.33), and adherence (90.63) were moderately high. There were positive correlations between resource availability and utilization (r=0.60, p≤0.001), and availability and adherence (r=0.61, p≤0.001), and utilization and adherence (r=0.54, p≤0.001). This finding indicates that where there are resources there is greater utilization and adherence.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
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