

Registered Nurse Attitudes Towards Integrative Therapies in Acute Care Settings

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INTRODUCTION

Traditional medical care is changing in the U.S. and there is increasing demand from health care consumers for more Integrative Therapies. These therapies focus on health and healing versus disease and treatment and use a more holistic approach, integrating complementary and alternative therapies into conventional medicine. Although there is a general willingness to learn more about Integrative Therapies, there have been few studies within clinical settings that focus on nurses and no studies examining Registered Nurse attitudes towards Integrative Therapies in Wisconsin.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to identify knowledge, barriers, and intent to use Integrative Therapies among nurses in clinical settings. The study aims to answer the following research questions:

- How familiar are acute care RNs with Integrative Therapy techniques?
- What barriers exist when implementing Integrative Therapies in clinical settings?
- What are RNs' intent to use Integrative Therapies in future patient care?



STUDY DEVELOPMENT

This study developed from results from a previous qualitative study that identified common themes of Nurse Educators on their knowledge, barriers, and intent to use Integrative Therapies in west-central Wisconsin hospitals. An existing survey was modified to include questions regarding participants' knowledge, support, use, and barriers related to Integrative Therapies in acute care settings. Building on relationships from the previous study, participants recruited include staff nurses employed at Mayo Clinic Health Systems (MCHS) and Sacred Heart Hospital (SHH) in Eau Claire, as well as Ministry St. Joseph's Hospital (MSJH) in Marshfield.

METHODS

SAMPLE RECRUITMENT

Registered Nurses will be recruited from three of the health care organizations that University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire undergraduate nursing students complete their clinical rotations. Nurse Educators from each organization will facilitate recruitment efforts by sharing a survey via email across multiple nursing departments in each hospital.

MSJH	SHH	MCHS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical/Telemetry • Medical/Surgical • Orthopedics/Surgical • Cardiology • Oncology • Neurological • Trauma • Rehab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical/Surgical • Orthopedics/Surgical • Cardiology • Neurological • Trauma • Rehab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical/Telemetry • Medical/Surgical • Neurological • Trauma

TOOL DEVELOPMENT

- Seven tools were initially identified that gathered information about knowledge/attitudes regarding complementary therapies.
- These surveys were administered to groups of nurses and advanced practice nurses.
- Investigators were contacted for permission to use tools.
- Permission was attained to use 3 of the 7 tools.
- Intended audience, readability, language, and length of questionnaire were evaluated before selecting a tool.
- The tool selected (below) most closely aligned with qualitative research findings.

Authors	Cutshall, S., Derscheid, D., Miers, A., Ruegg, S., Schroeder, B., & Tucker, S.
Year	2010
Title	Knowledge, Attitudes, and Use of Complementary and Alternative Therapies Among Clinical Nurse Specialists in an Academic Medical Center
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose: To describe the knowledge, attitudes, and use of complementary and alternative medicine by Clinical Nurse Specialists, Advanced Practice Nurses, in a large Midwestern medical center. • The developed survey included (a) therapies from each of the domains determined by the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, (b) barriers for use of therapies in practice, and (c) a measure of overall stress level (0- to 10-point visual analog scale). • Electronic 23-item questionnaire sent to Clinical Nurse Specialists.

SURVEY DESIGN

The survey was modified in the following ways:

- Overall formatting revised for Qualtrics.
- More detailed demographics section included.
- Terminology revised for consistency (e.g., Complementary and Integrative Medicine [CIM] changed to Integrative Therapies).
- Responses not specific to Integrative Therapies were removed (e.g., vitamins, minerals, dance).
- Items inconsistent with study aims were removed.
 - "Would having CIM therapies available for you at the job site improve your job satisfaction?"
- Likert response options revised for clearer interpretation.
 - "There is evidence to support the use of Integrative Therapies for your patients?"
 - Response options include strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree vs. no evidence, some evidence, and supported by evidence.



DISCUSSION

This study will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the perceptions and abilities to implement Integrative Therapies into clinical settings in which UWEC nursing students complete their clinical hours. A more thorough exploration of this topic and further clarification of the perceptions of nurses within the community is necessary for students to function optimally as graduate nurses. Furthermore, connections with key stakeholders, influential within the organizations, will help foster future Integrative Therapy dialogue and collaborative projects with community nursing leaders.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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*Pictures were used courtesy of google image.com