Knowledge and Attitudes toward Hospice and Palliative Care: Instrument Validation among Emergency Providers

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INTRODUCTION

About half of dying patients visit the Emergency Department (ED) in the last month of life. The knowledge and attitudes of providers towards hospice and palliative care may influence providers’ decisions to engage patients and their caregivers in goals of care discussions and hospice and palliative care referrals.

No survey instrument directly measures emergency providers’ knowledge and attitudes towards hospice and palliative care.

METHODS

To re-validate the knowledge and attitude towards hospice and palliative care (KAHP) scale and assess the scale’s latent constructs among emergency providers.

RESULTS

The KAHP scale is a ten-item scale scored from 10 to 50. The reliability (Cronbach alpha) of the scale was 0.64. The exploratory factor analysis identified three constructs: self-rated knowledge, support for hospice and palliative care practice, and views on provider-patient communication.

CONCLUSION

The KAHP scale is a validated instrument that is suitable for assessing knowledge and attitude variations toward interventions designed to improve hospice and palliative care practice among emergency providers.

REFERENCES

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