

# Nurse Practitioners' Knowledge, Experience and Intention to Use Health Literacy Strategies in Practice

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# Background and Theoretical Framework

- Paucity of research exploring nurse practitioner providers and their health literacy knowledge
- Less known about NPs' experience with health literacy strategies in practice
- Future use of health literacy strategies with patients was explored using Theory of Planned Behavior as a framework (Fishbein & Ajzen, 1975, 2010)

# Research Questions

- What do nurse practitioners (NPs) know about health literacy (HL) and related strategies for clinical practice?
- What health literacy strategies are currently used by NPs in clinical practice?
- What is the intention of NPs to use health literacy strategies in future clinical practice?

# Study Methodology/ Instruments

- Descriptive, correlational, quantitative
- **Knowledge** measured with Health Literacy Knowledge and Experience Survey (HLKES), Part I (Cormier, 2006)
- **Experience** measured with Health Literacy Knowledge and Experience Survey (HLKES), Part II, Experience Scale (Cormier, 2006)
- **Intention** measured with Health Literacy Strategies Behavioral Intention (HLSBI) Questionnaire (Cafiero, 2012)

# Study Findings

- Demographics:
  - 456 nurse practitioners (NPs) **73% return rate**
  - Sample compared with national profile:
    - Increased number certified
    - Increased number with doctoral preparation
    - More working in primary care
- Knowledge: Poor
  - Overall mean score: 69/100
  - Gaps noted in regard to: HL effect on healthcare status, screening tools for low health literacy and evaluation measures of education materials

# Study findings (continued)

- Experience: Some
  - 75% of participants reported “never” or only “sometimes” having HL emphasized in NP curriculum
  - Culturally appropriate *written materials* were most frequently used for patient education
  - 66% of NPs reported “never” or “sometimes” evaluating reading level of written materials
  - Audiotapes, videotapes and computer software were used least often
- Intention: Strong
  - Mean score for each item 5.44 out of 7 Likert scale
  - Higher the score, the greater the likelihood participants intend to use health literacy strategies

# Study Findings (continued)

- Significant relationship between Experience and Educational Preparation
  - Doctorally prepared NPs had higher mean scores on *experience* than post-master's prepared NPs ( $p = 0.039$ )

## Practice setting

- Specialty practice NPs had higher mean scores on *experience* than episodic urgent care NPs ( $p = 0.008$ )

# Instrument Reliability

Reliability of instruments	Cormier (2006) with RNs (Cronbach's $\alpha$ )	Cafiero (2012) with NPs (Cronbach's $\alpha$ )
HLKES Part I Knowledge	None reported	.57
HLKES Part II Experience	.82	.69
HLSBI Intention	NA	.76



# Study Implications

## Knowledge:

- Increase NPs' knowledge of health literacy (HL)

## Experience:

- Improve NP evaluation of written patient education materials for use with low HL patients
- Develop HL appropriate patient education materials in other formats

## Intention:

- Support intention of NPs to use of health literacy strategies

# Future Research

- **Knowledge:**
  - How best to provide NPs with educational opportunities related to health literacy and health literacy strategies
- **Experience:**
  - The relationship between practice settings and use of health literacy strategies
- **Intention:**
  - How best to support intention to use HL strategies
  - Further testing of HLSBI instrument

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