

Abstract Preview

Patient Perception of Information Privacy in Japan - Development of the Scale and Nationwide Survey -

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Background Privacy is a precious human right as Warren and Brandeis stated in 1890, and personal information is one of the important elements of privacy. However, patient information generally is less valued in medical care, because medical staffs give priority to lifesaving or curing disease. Patient information is shared widely among medical teams through the EHR systems to improve quality and safety of care. However, unnecessary information sharing puts patient privacy at risk. In these circumstances, interest in privacy has grown immensely in Japan.

Objective and Methods We developed a reliable and validated scale called PIPS (Patients' Information Privacy Scale) that measures how patients perceive their information privacy. PIPS consists of 24 items that were categorized into four factors: F1 (Medical information), F2 (Identification data), F3 (Information of Activity of Daily living), and F4 (Private information). A nationwide survey was conducted for a total of 6,141 inpatients in 122 hospitals nationwide to obtain the standard score of this scale.

Results The average standard scores were as follows: F1=4.0±1.2, F2=4.3±1.4, F3=4.6±1.0, and F4=3.5±1.0. This result shows that F4 (private information) is the information patients regard as most private. There were no significant differences in scores with age, educational background, hospital location, disease type, and inpatient experience of the patients, other than gender and job situation.

Conclusion This scale is useful for nurses to deal with patient information appropriately to protect patients' rights based on patient perception of information privacy.

Biosheet

I am a Professor of Nagoya University, School of Health Sciences with a total of more than 20 years career in three universities. My PhD in Medical Science was given to my research that found synergistic effects among radiation and Mitomycin-C to the mice fetuses. I engage in the nursing education and the nursing research in Nursing Informatics, Nursing Ethics and Radiological Protection in Medicine. This contribution abstract focuses on the patient's right to privacy in information sharing in hospitals from the result of a nationwide survey that was carried out with 12 researchers collaboration from six universities.

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