

A Measure of Collaboration Between Nurse Practitioners and Physicians in Primary Care: Testing of the Collaborative Practice Questionnaire



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This thesis can be found at <http://morris.mcmaster.ca/>

THE ISSUE

Primary health care teams that include Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and physicians (MDs) are increasingly common. An instrument to measure the extent of and satisfaction with NP-MD collaboration exists but its reliability and validity have not yet been tested.

THE PURPOSE

To test the psychometric properties of the Collaborative Practice Questionnaire (CPQ), comprised of the Measure of Current Collaboration (MCC) and the Provider Satisfaction with Current Collaboration (PSCC) measure to see if it accurately and reliably measures the extent of and satisfaction with NP-MD collaboration in primary health care settings.

What did we do?

Using data from the NP Integration Study,* in which 271 NPs completed the MCC, 274 NPs completed the PSCC, and 226 MDs completed the MCC only, we determined the internal consistency and factor structure of the MCC and PSCC and the correlation between them. We tested construct validity by comparing the relationship between these measures and scores on other selected measures (constructs) with a priori predictions of the relationships as provided by 27 NPs and 24 MDs with experience in NP-MD collaboration in primary health care.

What did we find?

- The MCC and PSCC have high internal consistency, are unidimensional and are highly correlated
- The MCC and PSCC have fair construct validity
- The measures include some redundant items

How will this research help?

The CPQ can be used to assess the extent of and satisfaction with NP-MD collaboration in primary health care.

What's next?

Since only MCC scores were available for MDs, further research is recommended in which MDs complete both the MCC and the PSCC and construct measures to further evaluate the CPQ's reliability and validity. Given that some items are redundant, further research can be done to identify those items and to test the shortened versions of the CPQ. Finally, if the CPQ is to be used to evaluate interventions to promote NP-MD collaboration, then its responsiveness (i.e., ability to detect change) needs to be evaluated.

*http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/ministry_reports/nurseprac03/nurseprac03_mn.html

BOTTOM LINE?

Preliminary testing indicates that the CPQ is a reliable and valid measure of the extent of and satisfaction with NP-MD collaboration in primary health care settings.

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