

Rehabilitation Nursing Foundation Abstract Form

In 250-350 words, define the research problem, state the significance of the research, and present the research methodology and plan for analysis. **DO NOT USE A SEPARATE SHEET.**

Normalization is an adaptation mode commonly used among individuals and families experiencing chronic illness. The development of a normalization measure will provide researchers with the opportunity to conduct quantitative investigation. Subsequent quantitative research will enable healthcare providers to understand the conditions under which normalization results in optimum outcomes. With greater knowledge about normalization, nurses can intervene more appropriately with chronically ill individuals and families, thus resulting in better management of the illness, increased health status, and minimal detrimental effects on typical life patterns. The purpose for this study is to: (1) develop a normalization measure; and (2) ascertain the psychometric properties of the developed instrument. The sample for this study includes individuals diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, lupus or fibromyalgia. In phase one, a normalization measure will be developed and administered to 25 individuals as a pilot study. Refinements will be made based upon revelations from the pilot study. Phase two will include at least 150 participants and will consist of a cross-sectional correlational study designed to attempt to establish construct validity of the new measure using information about the relationships between normalization, its influences (perceived control, disease intrusiveness) and the outcomes (maintenance of social ties, quality of life). A measure of coping will be administered to provide support for concurrent validity. A measure of social desirability as well as sick role acceptance will be administered to determine discriminant validity. The psychometric properties of the normalization measure developed in phase one will be examined in the second phase. Descriptive analysis of the normalization scale will be conducted. An exploratory principal components factor analysis will be performed to determine how many factors underlie the item set and to confirm the grouping of items created during scale development. Correlation will be done for test-retest reliability on data for those subjects completing the normalization measure on two separate occasions. Multiple linear regression will be conducted to determine the contribution of normalization, disease intrusiveness, and perceived control in explaining the variance in quality of life. The source of the variance in maintenance of social ties will be determined using multiple linear regression. Moderator effects will also be tested.