

Rehabilitation Nursing Foundation

Abstract Form

INV #0808

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.**

Web-based Psychosocial Assessment for

Caregivers of Persons with Dementia: A Feasibility Study

The changes in a loved one's personality and mental abilities; the need to provide constant, loving attention for years; and the demands of bathing, dressing, and other caregiving duties, take a tremendous physical and emotional toll on the family caregivers who provide a majority of the care for nearly 5 million Americans with dementia. This project supports development of a web-based Caregiver Consultation Center for dementia caregivers, which includes individualized assessment. Congruent with The Association of Rehabilitation Nurses' mission statement and The Rehabilitation Nursing Research Agenda, this project examines the experience of families dealing with chronic health problems in regard to dementia in order to enhance the quality of life for those affected.

The C.A.R.E. tool, a psychosocial assessment for identifying caregivers' key concerns, will be adapted for web-based use in the Caregiver Consultation Center. Additional aims are to become trained in administering the C.A.R.E. tool and to compare experiences using the original face-to-face interview format versus the new self-administered web-based format. Caregivers (n=10) from a geriatric clinic will be randomized to either group. Caregivers and the assessor will complete a Survey on their C.A.R.E. Tool experiences. Data will be examined using descriptive statistics and narrative content analysis.

This Center aligns with the nation's goals for improving access to healthcare for underserved populations (i.e. homebound, rural, or other hard-to-reach populations) via telemedicine. If it is determined that the Center is accepted, used, and helpful, it has the long-term potential to improve, at a relatively low cost, the mental health and well being of a large number of dementia caregivers and the persons for whom they provide care. The web pages can also be translated into other languages and tested with minority populations.