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DISTRICT NURSING CLIENTS:
PERCEPTIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN NURSING CARE

A thesis presented
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
Master of Arts
in
Nursing at
Massey University
Palmerston North, New Zealand

WILMA AUDREY YOUNG
1989

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I apologize to readers who may be inconvenienced by these typographical errors. Please amend body of text as follows:

- p. 17 Fuchs, 1974 to Fuchs, 1975
- p. 18 New, Holton, May, & Hesler to New, Holton, May, Jude, & Hesler, 1977 x 2
- p. 19 Oakley, 1979 to Oakley, 1983
- p. 19 Kalish & Kalish, 1983 to Kalish & Kalish, 1981 x 2
- p. 19 Rodin & Janis, 1978, 1982 to Rodin & Janis, 1979, 1982
- p. 31 Nelson (1982) to Nelson (1981)—
- p. 33 Conway-Rutkowski, 1987a to Conway-Rutkowski, 1982a
- p. 33 Rover, 1987 to Rovers, 1987
- p. 43 O'Hagan, 1988 to O'Hagan, 1984
- p. 44 Moulson, 1983 to Moulson, 1984 x 3
- p. 46 Coney, p.212 to Coney, 1988, p.212
- p. 46 Professor Scott (1988) to Professor Scott (1983)
- p. 47 Kinross, Takarangi, Nevatt, and White, 1983 to White, Takarangi, Nevatt, and Kinross, 1983
- p. 52 Sandelowski, 1986 to Sandelowski, 1986
- p. 53 Sandelowski, 1986 to Sandelowski, 1986
- p. 65 Leininger, 1984 to Leininger, 1985
- p. 85 Shamansky & Germain, 1987 to Shamansky & St. Germain, 1987

Please make amendments to bibliographic entries as follows:

- Bailey, Donald B. Jr., et al (1985) [change 80(4) to 89(4)]
- Becker, Marshall H. & Rosenstock, Irwin M. (1984). [add pp.175-208.]
- Butteriss, Margaret. (1971). [change satisfaction to participation]
- Cary, Ann H. (1988). [change 341-351 to 341-349.]
- Chick, Norma. (1983). [add pp.13-37.]
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- Foxall, Martha, et al (1985). [change 425-444 to 425-443.]
- Glogow, Eli. [change (1971) to (1973).]
- Kalish, Beatrice J. & Kalish, Phillip A. (1981). [change pp 1-29 to pp. 211-226.]
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- New, Peter Kong-Ming, Holton, Wilfred E., May, Thomas, Jude, & Hessler, Richard M. (1977). [change to New, Peter Kong-Ming, Holton, Wilfred E., May, Jude, Thomas, & Hessler, Richard M. (1977).]
- Oakley, A. [change (1984) to (1983).]
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- Tagliacozzo, Daisy L. & Mauksch, H.O. (1972). [add pp.162-175]

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- Abbott, Nellie Kuhtik. (1981); Brophy, Elizabeth B. (1981); Gosch, Susan & Fox, Lee F. (1981); Marriner, Ann. (1981); Mason, Donald. (1981); Smyth, Kathleen. (1981); Van Ort, Suzanne. (1981) [to In Sydney D. Krampitz & Natalie Pavlovich (Eds.), Readings for nursing research.]

ABSTRACT

Research on participation in nursing care is sparse in New Zealand, particularly in the district nursing field. No studies were found on participation from the perspective of the New Zealand client of district nursing care. This study initiates steps to fill this gap by examining the question "What are the perceptions of district nursing clients toward participation in their care?". An exploratory descriptive study using a multiple triangulation design provided a background data base and revealed rich, meaningful qualitative information. Thirty eight district nursing clients were interviewed seeking quantitative data which were statistically analyzed and qualitative data which were analyzed using analytic description technique. The district nurse/client relationship studied here provided evidence supporting Kim's (1983a) theoretical framework of collaborative decision making, particularly that the nurse controls the "client's propensity to participate" through "allowance" or "sanctioning" of participation (p.279). This research discovered that from the client's perspective the district nurse guides the client/nurse relationship, encouraging the client's participation through discussion. Client and nurse cooperated and worked together to achieve a mutual goal of selfcare and independence. Study clients acquiesced to the nurse's guidance as a result of preconceived patient/nurse role attitudes and deference to the nurse's professional expertise. A continuum of participation was conceptualized with four perceptions of participation evident in this study: 'Withdrawal' of those who did not wish to participate; 'Acquiescence' or supporting the status quo by consenting without comment; a mid-point of 'Cooperation and Working Together'; and, 'Taking more Control' of care.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to the people who participated in the research - the clients. Without their participation and co-operation I would have nothing. My thanks.

I also thank the District Nurses who indirectly assisted in this research by nursing the clients I interviewed. I add my admiration to those of a grateful caregiver below.

TRIBUTE TO NURSES

Sir. - I would like to pay tribute to a wonderful group of people, who I feel may be taken for granted in the normal course of events. I refer to the district nurses, who undoubtedly ease the burden of spouses and families of patients who wish to remain in their homes rather than be hospitalised.

My husband passed away recently after a short but very trying illness, during which he needed a great deal of care, and without these dedicated people I could never have coped with nursing him.

They came in pairs, three times a day, armed with linen, towels and all the necessary equipment, and never once did we see anything but kindness and caring. everything was done without complaint, and always with a smile.

I will always be grateful for their help, as they enabled me to keep John at home with his family which was his last wish.

I hope you will publish this letter, as I believe many people have no idea this service is available, or how extensive it is.

Moirra Glasgow

Palmerston North.

Letter to the Editor. Evening Standard, Palmerston North, New Zealand. Monday, October 3, 1988

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To the New Zealand Nursing Education and Research Foundation for its financial assistance.

To my husband, Chris, for his loving support, honest criticism, and willingness to move 10,000 miles to fulfill my dream.

To my children for their love, support, understanding, and encouragement; especially when I wasn't there when they needed me.

And lastly, to my cohorts and fellow students, whose invaluable friendship and support helped to make it all worthwhile.

As a Canadian, the two years I have spent in New Zealand have been, for me, an ethnological exploration of the New Zealand way of life. To all those who helped that process - Merci beaucoup, I am very grateful.

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