DOI: 10.18621/eurj.885563

Psychiatric Nursing

# Turkish adaptation of the undergraduate nursing clinical evaluation form: a validity and reliability study

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# **ABSTRACT**

**Objectives:** The study was conducted for the purpose of determining the validity and reliability of the "Undergraduate Nursing Clinical Evaluation Form (CEF)" in a Turkish sample.

**Methods:** One hundred sixty-seven students enrolled in Faculty of Health Sciences Department of Nursing participated in the study. Study data were collected via the Student Description Form and CEF. The Cronbach's  $\alpha$  internal consistency coefficient was calculated for the reliability of the total scale. Pearson correlation analysis was used to determine the correlation between items and total scores.

**Results:** In the validity of the scale, CFA was used to investigate the consistency of the scale with the original scale. When the fit indices of the model tested using CFA were examined, it was seen that the chi-square value was significant. When the Cronbach's  $\alpha$  reliability coefficients were examined, the reliability of the form was found to be quite good in terms of domains and total score. The correlations between the items and total scale score ranged between 0.42 and 0.77. Cronbach's  $\alpha$  coefficient was greater than 0.90 for each item.

**Conclusions:** Undergraduate Nursing Clinical Evaluation Form is a valid and reliable tool that can be used in the Turkish culture.

**Keywords:** Nursing, clinical evaluation, validity, reliability

Theoretical knowledge and clinical teaching are inseparable parts of nursing education as in the education programs of all practice-based disciplines [1, 2]. Students gain professional confidence in the fields where clinical teaching is applied. Clinical practice provides students the opportunity to integrate the theoretical knowledge and practice taught in the school by experiencing and practicing in a real environment. It also allows students to use their knowledge in a real-world environment, develop their psychomotor skills, and improve professional relationships [3, 4]. In clinical practice, students have the opportunity to practice

what they learn and to see role models that prepare them for the future. At the same time, they develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills and receive the opportunity to see the relationships between health team members [4-7].

Factors such as the type of clinical setting, attitudes, and the experiences of the instructor are important in shaping the clinical experience of students [8]. Relevant studies have focused on identifying students' current and previous clinical practice experiences, and their perceptions of the clinical training process [1, 9, 10-12]. In the study conducted by Chan [13], it was



Received: February 23, 2021; Accepted: June 18, 2021; Published Online: September 9, 2021

How to cite this article: Arkan B, Pehlivan S, Yılmaz D, Vatansever N. Turkish adaptation of the undergraduate nursing clinical evaluation form: a validity and reliability study. Eur Res J 2021;7(6):550-558. DOI: 10.18621/eurj.885563

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reported that clinical practice environments could not provide a positive learning environment for students. In the study conducted by Papathanasiou et al. [14] in order to evaluate nursing students' perceptions of clinical learning environments, it was determined that there was a significant gap between the students' expectations of the clinical learning environment and the reality. As a result of the study, it was recommended that the education framework be reorganized. In another study, it was stated that instructors and nurses in the clinic play a particularly important role in integrating nursing students into the clinical environment during clinical practice [15]. In a qualitative study conducted by Serçekuş and Başkale [16] in Turkey, it was determined that nursing students were negatively affected if feedback was given by instructors in front of patients. In the study conducted by Arkan et al. [17], it was emphasized that the most significant factor in students' clinical learning was the attitude of instructors.

During clinical practices, the psychomotor skills students have acquired previously are evaluated alongside their cognitive and affective capacities [18]. The evaluation of students during clinical practice is one of the main focuses of nursing education, in order to ascertain that clinical learning goals have been met. Evaluation is an inseparable part of education and is a dynamic process that aims to ensure students learn and develop [19, 20]. On the other hand, students are also expected to give feedback about their experiences after the clinical practice. It is very important for the evaluation process that educators be provided with feedback that adequately represents the views of the students because health care organizations require student feedback to shape educational programs and activities for personal development [8].

There are limited evaluation tools that nursing students can use to provide feedback at the end of clinical practice. In addition, it has been reported that some tools available are problematic in terms of their ability to provide correct evaluation, since they are hard to understand and there are too many deficiencies in the open-ended question format [21, 22]. Therefore, there is a need to develop a tool that can provide feedback which helps instructors to provide a successful clinical practice environment. It was determined in the literature review that there is no evaluation tool that nursing students in Turkey can use to give feedback about their

clinical practice. It is thought that the use of a measurement tool in which nursing students evaluate the current state of clinical practice in all its aspects will contribute to identify and solve problems in clinical training.

This study was thus conducted to test the Turkish validity and reliability of the Undergraduate Nursing Clinical Evaluation Form (CEF) developed by Porter *et al.* [8].

# **Research Questions**

Is the Undergraduate Nursing Clinical Evaluation Form (CEF) for nursing students valid and reliable?

### **METHODS**

The study was conducted methodologically with nursing students between December 2018 and January 2019.

The sample of the research consisted of second, third and fourth-year students at the Nursing Department of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Bursa Uludag University at the end of the fall semester of the 2018-2019 academic year. Among the students included in the sample, second-year students had completed internal medicine nursing internship practices; third-year students had completed obstetrics and gynecology nursing internship practices; and fourth-year students had completed public health nursing, psychiatric nursing, and surgical diseases nursing internship practices. First-year nursing students were excluded from the research since they had not yet had clinical practice experience at the time of the study.

In the literature, three rules are mentioned for the determination of the sample size in validity and reliability studies. It is emphasized that at least five people should be included per item in order to perform factor analysis. Itis recommended that there be 10 people per item if there is no problem in reaching the sample [23]. If there is a serious limitation in sampling it is recommended that the size of the sample be at least 100 people. Ten students were included per item in order to perform the validity and reliability study of the 30-item CEF, and the size of the sample was calculated as 210 students. Two hundred twenty students who met the research criteria were included in the sample. However, 53 students were excluded from the sample

since they did not fully complete the form and analyses were performed on 167 students. The percentage of the sample reached was 75%.

# **Data Collection Tools**

The data of the research were collected using the Student Introduction Form and the CEF.

### **Student Introduction Form**

This form includes questions about the age, gender, year-of-study, and clinical practice fields of the students.

# **Undergraduate Nursing Clinical Evaluation Form** (CEF)

This was developed by Porter *et al.* [8] in 2011. It is an evaluation tool that can be used by nursing students to provide feedback at the end of the clinical practice process. The form consists of 21 items and five domains. The domains are "Orientation", "Clinical Educator/Teacher", "Ward Staff and Environment", "Clinical Hurdles" and "University". The form has a 5-point Likert type (1 = never, 2 = rarely, 3 = sometimes, 4 = often, 5 = always). The lowest score that can be obtained from the form is 21 and the highest score is 105. The Cronbach's  $\alpha$  value of the form is 0.90 [8].

### **Data Collection**

# 1. Language Validity

For language validity, the form was translated from English to Turkish independently by three Turkish linguistic scientists. Afterward, the researchers evaluated the most appropriate translation for each item and prepared a common Turkish text. The scale, which was translated into Turkish, was retranslated to English by two linguistic scientists who were fluent in both Turkish and English and the translated form was compared with the original form. Inappropriate statements were revised to ensure language validity.

## 2. Content Validity

After language validity had been ascertained, the draft form was presented to 10 experts in psychiatry, internal medicine, surgery, nursing principles, pediatric nursing, and nursing management to obtain their opinions. The experts were asked to evaluate the draft form in terms of both language and content. The ex-

perts scored each item as follows: "4" if an item did not need to be changed; "3" if a minor change was recommended; "2" if a major change was recommended; and "1" if it was recommended that an item be removed for being inappropriate.

# 3. Application Process

The draft scale developed was given nursing students who were not included in the sample for a pilot application and its intelligibility and the application process were evaluated.

# 4. Construct Validity

Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) was used to validate the factors present in the original form of the scale for construct validity. Prior to the analysis, the data set was examined and missing data, extreme values, and normality were checked. The data were analyzed using the lavaan 0.6-3 package in the CFA RStudio Desktop 1.2.1335 for the construct validity of the scale.

### 5. Determination of Reliability

To determine the reliability of the CEF, which was developed by Porter *et al.* and consists of 21 items and 5 domains (orientation, clinical educator/teacher, ward staff and environment, clinical hurdles, and university), the Cronbach's  $\alpha$  reliability coefficients were calculated from among the internal consistency methods and item-total score analyses were performed.

The students were asked to fill out the questionnaire given by the researchers. Care was taken that the time taken to complete questionnaires did not interfere with students' lecture hours. The maximum length of time it took for students to complete the form was calculated to be 15 minutes. The completed questionnaires were collected and evaluated.

#### **Ethical Consideration**

Written permission was obtained by email from the corresponding author Joanne Porter, who developed the form, in order to use the CEF in the research. Written permission was obtained from the Health Sciences Research and Publication Ethics Committee of Bursa Uludag University (Decision No: 2018-06). Students who agreed to participate in the research were informed that all of the data would be used for scientific purposes and that their answers would not affect

their course marks in any way. Their informed consent was then obtained.

# **Statistical Analysis**

Statistical analysis of the data was performed in the SPSS 23.0 (IBM Corp. Released 2015. IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 23.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.) statistics package program. The demographic data of the students were presented as frequency and percentage for qualitative variables and mean and standard deviation for qualitative variables. The Cronbach's α internal consistency coefficient was calculated for the reliability of the total scale and five domains. Pearson correlation analysis was used to determine the correlation between items and total scores. In the validity of the scale, CFA was used to investigate the consistency of the scale with the original scale. Prior to the analysis, the data set was examined and missing data, extreme values, and normality were checked. The data were analyzed using the lavaan 0.6-3 package in the CFA RStudio Desktop 1.2.1335 for the construct validity of the scale. In the interpretation of the CFA result, the ratios of the chi-squared value to the degree of freedom, CFI, RMSEA, and SRMR fit indices were used. The significance level was accepted as  $\alpha = 0.05$ .

#### **RESULTS**

The sociodemographic characteristics of the nursing students included in the study are given in Table 1. When the students evaluated their clinical practice with the CEF, it was determined that the highest score was in the "clinical educator/teacher" domain and the lowest score was in the "ward staff and environment" domain (Table 2).

# **Construct Validity of Undergraduate Nursing Clinical Evaluation Form (CEF)**

When the fit indices of the model tested using CFA were examined, it was seen that the chi-square value was significant ( $\chi 2 = 370.543$ ; p < 0.001). Fit indices and acceptable values obtained in the study are given in Table 3. According to these results, it was determined that the  $\chi 2/\text{sd}$ , CFI, SRMR, and RMSEA values were within the acceptable limits and that the study provided construct validity.

**Table 1.** Sociodemographic characteristics of students

<u>statents</u>				
Characteristics	n	%		
Year				
Second	77	46.1		
Third	57	34.1		
Fourth	33	19.8		
Age				
18-23	160	95.8		
24-29	6	3.6		
30-35	1	0.6		
Gender				
Male	31	18.6		
Female	136	81.4		
Educational Status				
High School	28	16.8		
Vocational High School	39	23.4		
Anatolian-Science High School	100	59.9		
Income status				
Bad	21	12.6		
Medium	130	77.8		
Good	16	9.6		
Working status				
Working	14	8.4		
Not working	153	91.6		
Total	167	100.0		

# Reliability of Undergraduate Nursing Clinical Evaluation Form (CEF)

The reliability coefficient obtained in the study of Porter *et al*. [8] and reliability coefficients obtained in our study are given in Table 4. When the Cronbach's  $\alpha$  reliability coefficients were examined, the reliability of the form was found to be quite good in terms of domains and total score. Pearson's Moment Correlation Coefficient was calculated for the CEF items used in the study and the internal consistency of each item with the scale as a whole was determined (Table 5). The correlations between the items and total scale score ranged between 0.42 and 0.77, and the Cronbach's  $\alpha$  coefficient was greater than 0.90 for each item. According to the results of the item analysis, it was found that the reliability of the form was good.

Table 2. Frequency distribution of the clinical evaluation form scores

Domains/Items	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	Mean ± SD
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	
Domain: Orientation 3.						
Orientation was relevant and well organized	10 (6)	23 (13.8)	66 (39.5)	55 (32.9)	13 (7.8)	$3.23 \pm 0.99$
2. I was made to feel welcome by the educator	5 (3)	15 (9)	55 (32.9)	69 (41.3)	23 (13.8)	$3.54 \pm 0.94$
3.Clinical expectations were defined and discussed during orientation	13 (7.8)	24 (14.4)	63 (37.7)	50 (29.9)	17 (10.2)	$3.2 \pm 1.06$
Domain: Clinical educator/Clinical teacher						$3.59 \pm 0.76$
4. The educator was available and easily contactable during placement	2 (1.2)	19 (11.4)	58 (34.7)	53 (31.7)	35 (21)	3.6±0.98
5. The educator was approachable and friendly	3 (1.8)	16 (9.6)	46 (27.5)	69 (41.3)	33 (19.8)	$3.68 \pm 0.96$
6.Debriefing sessions were relevant and educational.	4 (2.4)	17 (10.2)	65 (38.9)	51 (30.5)	30 (18)	$3.51 \pm 0.98$
7.The in-service and educational sessions were relevant	5 (3)	14 (8.4)	63 (37.7)	54 (32.3)	31 (18.6)	$3.55 \pm 0.99$
8.Rosters were available to me in a reasonable timeframe	8 (4.8)	17 (10.2)	47 (28.1)	57 (34.1)	38 (22.8)	$3.6 \pm 1.09$
Domain: Ward staff/preceptors and ward e	nvironment					$3.1 \pm 0.95$
9. The staff were friendly and approachable	8 (4.8)	33 (19.8)	59 (35.3)	49 (29.3)	18 (10.8)	$3.22 \pm 1.04$
10.I was made to feel welcome on the ward	11 (6.6)	32 (19.2)	49 (29.3)	56 (33.5)	19 (11.4)	$3.24 \pm 1.09$
11.The staff facilitated learning opportunities for me	8 (4.8)	27 (16.2)	60 (35.9)	46 (27.5)	26 (15.6)	$3.33 \pm 1.07$
12. The staff involved me in clinical decision making	37 (22.2)	48 (28.7)	36 (21.6)	34 (20.4)	12 (7.2)	$2.62 \pm 1.24$
Domain: Final assessment/clinical hurdles						$3.26 \pm 0.93$
13.Clinical hurdles were achieved in corporation with the clinical educator	7 (4.2)	26 (15.6)	54 (32.3)	56 (33.5)	24 (14.4)	$3.38 \pm 1.05$
14.Clinical hurdles were achievable within the time frame of the clinical placement	10 (6)	26 (15.6)	58 (34.7)	55 (32.9)	18 (10.8)	$3.27 \pm 1.04$
15.An interim evaluation of clinical competencies was conducted and goals set for the remainder of placement	15 (9)	29 (17.4)	55 (32.9)	53 (31.7)	15 (9)	$3.14 \pm 1.09$
16. During the final evaluation I received constructive feedback	17 (10.2)	18 (10.8)	58 (34.7)	57 (34.1)	17 (10.2)	$3.23 \pm 1.1$
<b>Domain: University</b>						$3.4 \pm 0.82$
17. The clinical placement details were made available prior to commencement of the placement	9 (5.4)	19 (11.4)	68 (40.7)	52 (31.1)	19 (11.4)	3.32±1
18. Clinical hurdles. assessment tasks and University expectations were outlined by unit coordinator	5 %3)	17 (10.2)	68 (40.7)	53 (31.7)	24 (14.4)	$3.44 \pm 0.96$
19. A contact person was available to answer clinical questions	8 (4.8)	17 (10.2)	46 (27.5)	67 (40.1)	29 (17.4)	$3.55 \pm 1.05$
20. The clinical office was approachable and friendly	15 (9)	19 (11.4)	53 (31.7)	59 (35.3)	21 (12.6)	$3.31 \pm 1.11$
21. The placement was relevant to the unit content	7 (4.2)	21 (12.6)	59 (35.3)	58 (34.7)	22 (13.2)	$3.4 \pm 1.01$

Table 3. Confirmatory factor analysis fit indices

Fit Indices	Turkish Form	Acceptable Values
$\chi^2$ /SD	2.07	≤ 5
Comparative Fit Index (CFI)	0.911	≥ 0.90
Standardized Root Mean Square Residuals (SRMR)	0.059	$\leq$ 0.080
Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA)	0.080	$\leq$ 0.080

Table 4. Domains of CEF and Cronbach's α Reliability Coefficients

Factors	Item number	Original Form	Cronbach α coefficient
Orientation	3	0.77	0.77
Clinical educator/clinical teacher	5	0.76	0.82
Ward staff/preceptors and ward environment	4	0.91	0.88
Final assessment/clinical hurdles	4	0.73	0.89
University	5	0.79	0.86
Total	21	0.90	0.94

Table 5. Results of Individual Item Analysis for CEF

	Scale Mean if Item is Deleted	Scale Variance if Item is Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
Item 1	67.1377	197.372	0.525	0.936
Item 2	66.8263	196.482	0.587	0.935
Item 3	67.1617	193.389	0.622	0.935
Item 4	66.7665	194.144	0.649	0.934
Item 5	66.6886	194.517	0.653	0.934
Item 6	66.8503	194.646	0.631	0.934
Item 7	66.8144	194.453	0.635	0.934
Item 8	66.7665	198.614	0.425	0.938
Item 9	67.1497	194.297	0.606	0.935
Item 10	67.1257	192.653	0.627	0.935
Item 11	67.0359	194.444	0.578	0.935
Item 12	67.7485	194.876	0.478	0.938
Item 13	66.9820	190.259	0.746	0.932
Item 14	67.0958	189.425	0.779	0.932
Item 15	67.2216	188.957	0.756	0.932
Item 16	67.1317	190.766	0.686	0.933
Item 17	67.0479	196.564	0.546	0.936
Item 18	66.9222	194.000	0.671	0.934
Item 19	66.8144	192.297	0.673	0.934
Item 20	67.0539	191.244	0.662	0.934
Item 21	66.9641	194.204	0.630	0.934

n = 167, No. of Items = 21, Cronbach's Alpha = 0.940

# **DISCUSSION**

In this study, conducted to determine the validity and reliability of the Turkish version of the CEF developed by Porter *et al.* [8], the opinions of ten experts

about language and content validity were obtained The fit index of the form in terms of items and scale was found to be greater than 0.90. The data obtained from the study shows that the language and content validity of the form was ensured and that the form measures

the subject sufficiently.

# **Construct Validity of Undergraduate Nursing Clinical Evaluation Form (CEF)**

The construct validity of the 21-item CEF and its five domains, (orientation, clinical educator/teacher, ward staff and environment, clinical hurdles, and university) was investigated through CFA. In the CFA, a number of fit indices are used to determine the construct validity of the scale. Fit indices are used in order to evaluate the fitness between the theoretical model and the actual data. Since the fit indices have different advantages compared to each other, it is recommended that more than one fit index be used in the CFA [24]. Accordingly, it was determined that the chi-square value of the model tested with the CFA was significant  $(\chi 2=370.543; p < 0.001)$ . Moreover, it is stated that the possibility that the chi-square test will be significant may increase significantly with an increase in the sample size and it is recommended that the  $\chi$ 2/SD ratio be considered [25]. In order to test which CFA model best represented the present dataset several fit indices were selected: root-mean-squared error of approximation (RMSEA) [26], comparative fit index (CFI) [27], chisquare, and change in chi-square/degrees of freedom between models [25]. RMSEA is a measure of the average of the residual variance and covariance; good models have RMSEA values that are at or less than 0.08 [8]. CFI is an index that falls between 0 and 1, with values greater than 0.90 considered to be indicators of good fitting models [28]. In the current study, the  $\gamma$ 2/SD, CFI, SRMR, and RMSEA values were found to be within acceptable limits. It can therefore be stated that the study provides construct validity.

# **Reliability of Undergraduate Nursing Clinical Evaluation Form (CEF)**

The Cronbach's  $\alpha$  coefficient indicates whether the items measure the same characteristic and whether the items are associated with the measured subject. This value should be as close to 1 as possible in scales. A value between 0.60 and 0.80 indicates that the scale is very reliable; a value between 0.80 and 1.00 indicates that the scale is highly reliable [29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34]. When the Cronbach's  $\alpha$  reliability coefficients obtained in our study were examined, the reliability of the Turkish version of the Clinical Evaluation Form

(CEF) was found to be good in terms of the domains and the total score. In the original study, the Cronbach's  $\alpha$  values of the form in terms of domains and total score were also found to be greater than 0.70 [8]. This result shows that the Turkish version of the form is similar to the original version and has a strong internal consistency.

The correlation coefficient is an indicator of whether the items in the scale measure the desired quality in item analysis [29-32, 34, 35]. This value should be greater than 0.20 in a positive direction [30]. In our study, the correlation of items with the total scale score ranged between 0.42 and 0.77. Item-total score correlation coefficients were found to be in a positive direction and greater than 0.20. According to these results, it can be stated that all items of the scale had a high correlation with total score, that the desired quality of the scale was measured sufficiently, and that the item reliability of the scale was high. Since item-total score correlations were not given in the original study, our results could not be compared with the original form [8].

#### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, clinical practice can only be successful if the instructor is able to comprehensively evaluate the process and eliminate any deficiencies. In this process, obtaining feedback from students about their clinical practice is very important. Thanks to this feedback, problems can be detected and the necessary precautions taken; thus, a more effective learning environment can be achieved. There is thus a need for a valid and reliable evaluation tool that students can use to correctly evaluate their experience of the process. This study has demonstrated that the Turkish version of the CEF is a valid and reliable measurement tool. It is suggested that nursing students use this form to evaluate clinical practice and thus eliminate a significant gap in this field.

### Authors' Contribution

Study Conception: BA, SP, DY, NV; Study Design: BA, SP, DY, NV; Supervision: BA; Funding: BA, SP, DY, NV; Materials: BA, SP, DY, NV; Data Collection and/or Processing: BA, SP, DY, NV; Sta-

tistical Analysis and/or Data Interpretation: BA, SP, DY, NV; Literature Review: BA, SP, DY, NV; BA, SP, DY, NV: BY, MOK, EP and Critical Review: BA, SP, DY, NV.

# Conflict of interest

The authors disclosed no conflict of interest during the preparation or publication of this manuscript.

# Financing

The authors disclosed that they did not receive any grant during the conduction or writing of this study.

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