Development of a questionnaire to explore the nursing students' perceptions of Infection prevention and control learning in academia

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INTRODUCTION

Across the European Higher Nursing Education Institutions (HNEIs) there is an emergent need to integrate Healthcare-associated Infections (HCAIs) prevention and control-related contents into the curricula, given that nursing students are expected to provide increasingly effective, safe and quality care. However, to the best of our knowledge, little is known about student nurses' perceptions regarding the HCAIs-related content lectured in HNEIs, as well as current challenges in their learning process within this thematic scope.

OBJECTIVES

To explore this gap in the literature, we aim to develop a questionnaire focused on nursing students' perceptions in this regard that can be applied to nursing students from different European countries.

METHODOLOGY

The questionnaire was developed in three phases: i) after a comprehensive literature review, a panel of researchers identified the most commonly mentioned HCAIs-related dimensions in this thematic scope, creating a list of items in English (α version); ii) this version was sent to an international panel of 12 PhD researchers/teachers in nursing and other allied scientific areas for restructuring/validation (β version); iii) the β version was then translated/culturally adapted to four European countries according to Beaton and colleagues' recommendations (2000).

RESULTS

After the two initial rounds, a consensus was reached amongst the international panel of experts, resulting in the development of a β version in English, composed by 93 items answered in a 5-point Likert Scale, sustaining 10 HCAIs-related dimensions, which was then translated into European Portuguese, Spanish, Finnish and Polish. A small pilot (n=169 nursing students) of the β version was conducted in the four countries to validate the minor semantic and idiomatic modifications made during the translation process. After this process, all local experts reported a correct and accurate translation of the questionnaire to each language.

CONCLUSIONS

By exploring nursing students' perceptions of how HCAIs-related content is being lectured/taught across the different European HNEIs, this questionnaire will highlight existing gaps and potentially contribute to the improvement of the nursing curricula. Nonetheless, future validation studies are needed to test the psychometric properties of the questionnaire.

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