

Attitudes About Family Checklist (AFC)

Description

The AFC is a 16 item self-report instrument used to assess staff attitudes about family members of the AD patient, including family visitation, family requests regarding care of the AD relative, and family participation in the care of the AD relative. Staff rate the items on a seven point Likert scale (1=strongly disagree; 7=strongly agree). A high score indicates that the staff caregiver has a positive attitude towards regular visitation from family members, requests concerning care of the AD relative, and family participation in caring for the AD relative.

Validity

No information as yet.

Reliability

The AFC was pretested with 60 nursing home staff in long-term care facilities and yielded an internal consistency reliability coefficient of .91 (Cronbach's Alpha). Test-retest reliability with 15 staff and a three week interval was $r=.84$. Cronbach's alpha based on Phase III baseline data (N=476) was .75.

Subscales

We have been using the tentative subscale structure described below.

<u>Subscale for AFC</u>	<u>Items in subscale</u>
Families are	
quieting-disquieting	5, 8, 14, 15, 16
partner-subordinate	6, 7, 9, 13
Relevant-irrelevant	1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12

Quieting-disquieting reflects whether staff see family members tend to settle things down or stir them up. *Partner-subordinate* reflects whether staff see family members as co-equals in decision-making or as outsiders to be directed. *Relevant-irrelevant* reflects whether staff see family members as fitting in and contributing or not fitting in and contributing.

These factors are based on a limited number of items and items do not load strictly on just one factor. (I've found that using factor scores, where each item is given a weighted score for each subscale, gives better results than just summing the items. I could also provide the information about weighting if you want to use it.)

NOTE: *Items 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16 need to be reversed for scoring*

Development History

Maas and Buckwalter developed the AFC based on the critical incidences of responses from staff to the statements: "Describe an interaction or circumstance of your work during the past month that involved the family of an AD patient. Briefly write how you felt about the interaction or circumstance and how it affected your ability to do your job."