

**Session 1.12**  
**Education Track**

**Abstract Title:**

Potential Use of Syndrome Diagnoses in a BSN Curriculum: Capturing the Human Experience in Nursing Language

**Presenters:**

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**Intended Audience:**

Educators

**Area of Focus:**

Use in Education

**Research Format:**

For Non-Research Reports

**TOPIC:** Syndrome Diagnoses Used In Nursing Education

**BACKGROUND:** Syndrome diagnoses are being proposed by NANDA as a cluster or group of nursing diagnoses that appear together. Syndrome labels would describe a clinical picture of a condition/life process that cluster together in a pattern of nursing diagnoses. Baccalaureate nursing programs frequently have a fundamentals course that introduces students to nursing knowledge. While these courses introduce the knowledge of nursing, they are often based on medical terminology where a more nursing approach would socialize new nurses to the profession more effectively.

**DESCRIPTION:** At Saginaw Valley State University we have conceptualized an introductory course using a human phenomena and intervention approach. In this course, labeled Core Phenomena and Nursing Interventions, we use NANDA and other standardized languages to capture fundamental human experiences and nursing interventions. However, it has been difficult to capture in nursing language the clusters of diagnostic labels that appear together. These could be potentially thought of as syndromes using the proposed NANDA diagnostic language.

**CONCLUSION:** Clustering of nursing diagnoses is consistent with middle-range theory and the current literature on symptom clustering. An example of how Stress as a syndrome might be conceptualized with the NANDA clusters of anxiety, fear, and ineffective coping within a BSN course will be presented. Another example of how the current NANDA label of Comfort might be conceptualized as a syndrome including pain, fatigue and disturbed sleep pattern will be presented. Anecdotal student response to this approach will also be discussed.

**Citations:**

Fink, P, Toft, T, Hansen, M, Ornbol, E, & Olesen, F (2007). Symptoms and syndromes of bodily distress. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 69(1), 30-9.  
Kautz, D, Kuiper, R, Pesut, B, & Williams, R (2006). Using NANDA, NIC and NOC language for clinical reasoning with the Outcome-Present State-Test Model. *International Journal of Nursing Terminologies and Classifications*, 17(3), 129-137.  
NANDA E-Newsletter. (2007, Summer).  
Ryan, C, DeVon, H, Horne, R., King, K, Milner, K, Moser, D, Quinn, J, Rosenfeld, A, Hwang, S, & Zerwic, J (2007). Symptom clusters in acute myocardial infarction. *Nursing Research*, 56(2), 72-81.