Development of Care Standards for South Korean Residential Aged Care Facilities

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Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

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Declaration

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(Signed) ________________________________

Gwilae CHO
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Table of Contents

Acknowledgement............................................................................................................. ii

Table of Contents ............................................................................................................. iii

List of Tables................................................................................................................... vii

List of Figures ................................................................................................................... x

Abbreviations................................................................................................................... xi

Abstract .......................................................................................................................... xiv

Chapter One: Introduction................................................................................................. 1

1.1 Background to the study........................................................................................... 2

1.1.1 Emergence of long-term care insurance system in South Korea ................ 3

1.1.2 Overview of the long-term care insurance system in South Korea............. 8

1.1.3 Justification for the study ............................................................................ 15

1.2 Statement of the problem ...................................................................................... 23

1.3 Researcher’s personal background ...................................................................... 24

1.4 Study aims ............................................................................................................. 27

1.5 Research questions ............................................................................................... 27

1.6 Significance of the study ...................................................................................... 28

1.7 The structure of the thesis .................................................................................... 30

Chapter Two: Literature Review..................................................................................... 31

2.1 Review and search strategies................................................................................... 32

2.1.1 Review strategy ............................................................................................ 32

2.1.2 Search strategy ............................................................................................. 33

2.2 Quality of life ........................................................................................................ 36

2.2.1 Quality of life of older people (international) within the community..... 38

2.2.2 Quality of life of older people (international) in RACFs......................... 41

2.2.3 Quality of life of older South Koreans within the community and residential aged care facilities......................................................... 45

2.3 Quality of care: International and South Korean views .................................... 50

2.3.1 The concept of quality of care...................................................................... 50
6.1.4 Health and functional status of residents in the South Korean residential aged care facilities ................................................................. 259
6.1.5 Specific characteristics of the care standards in this study ............... 263
6.2 Limitations of the study.................................................................. 266
6.3 Suggestions for further research..................................................... 268
6.4 Implications and suggestions for implementation............................ 270
6.5 Conclusion.................................................................................. 273

References .......................................................................................... 275

Appendices ......................................................................................... 298
List of Tables

Table 1: Ageing rates by countries ................................................................. 4
Table 2: Perceptions of principal responsibilities of support for older South Koreans ...... 7
Table 3: Demographic, social and cultural changes related to the commencement of the LTC system in South Korea ................................................................. 8
Table 4: Comparison of LTCI system among Germany, Japan and South Korea ............ 11
Table 5: Increasing rates of RACFs and residents .................................................. 17
Table 6: Summary of international research paper referring to QOL of older people within the community and RACFs ................................................................. 43
Table 7: Summary of research papers referring to QOL of older South Koreans within the community and RACFs ................................................................. 49
Table 8: Summary of research papers referring to QOL of older people within the community and RACFs ................................................................. 55
Table 9: Summary of research papers referring to quality of the nursing workforce ...... 60
Table 10: Summary of research papers referring to family relationships ...................... 63
Table 11: Summary of literature referring to COC and EOL care .............................. 67
Table 12: Summary of research papers referring to cultural considerations .................. 73
Table 13: Summary of literature referring to QOC in RACFs in South Korea ............... 76
Table 14: Comparisons of national care standards in Australia, Germany, Japan, the UK and the US ................................................................. 85
Table 15: Research questions and associated methods .............................................. 104
Table 16: Stages of content analysis ................................................................. 115
Table 17: Details of requirements of the expert panel qualification and composition ....... 122
Table 18: Summary of the priorities of selection for the expert panel members ..........123
Table 19: Summary of elements of standards for residential facilities in Australia ..........136
Table 20: Summary of National Minimum Standards for Care Homes 3rd edition.........139
Table 21: Summary of Requirements for States and Long-term Care Facilities .............141
Table 22: Comparison of international care standards: National Accreditation Standards for Residential Care Services (Australia, 2001); National Minimum Standards for Care Homes (3rd edition, the UK, 2006); C.F.R. 42, Part 483, Requirements for States and Long-term Care Facilities (the US, 1989) .................................................................................................................... 143
Table 23: Demographic characteristics of the residents ......................................................163
Table 24: Overall ADL, Cognitive impairment and Behavioural symptom of residents....164
Table 25: ADL and functional impairment status of residents ............................................ 165
Table 26: Status of cognitive impairment ...........................................................................166
Table 27: Status of behavioural symptom (N=121,337) .....................................................167
Table 28: ADL, Cognitive impairments and Behavioural symptoms by residents’
       gender, age and LTCI categories (N=121,337) ...................................................169
Table 29: Physical movement impairment status ..............................................................170
Table 30: Professional Nursing Care Needs .......................................................................171
Table 31: Medical diagnoses .............................................................................................172
Table 32: Summary of the process: Development of preliminary care standards .............176
Table 33: Preliminary care standards .................................................................................179
Table 34: Responses about each statement of the preliminary care standard from pilot
       study members .......................................................................................................194
Table 35: Summary of the revision of preliminary care standards .....................................207
Table 36: Revised care standards after pilot study .............................................................. 208

Table 37: Summary of the demographic characteristics of Delphi panel members .......... 217

Table 38: Responses about the level of consensus and ease of understanding of statements ......................................................................................................................... 219

Table 39: Responses about each statement of care standards; Delphi Round One .......... 221

Table 40: Responses about each statement of care standards; Delphi Round Two .......... 236

Table 41: Responses about each statement of care standards; Delphi Round Three .......... 237

Table 42: Responses about experiences of participation in the Delphi rounds ................. 239

Table 43: List of statements not to attain consensus and changes of consensus level ........ 248

Table 44: Comparison of PCC and RCC ............................................................................. 256
## List of Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Responsibilities of the management of LTCI system in South Korea</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Processes of making LTCI categories in South Korea</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Different stakeholders and their expectations</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Roles of clinicians (nurses and others) in RACFs</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Literature analysis and search process</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Donabedian’s framework: Structure, Process and Outcome</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Elements of care standards and the development of the study design (modified from Donabedian’s framework)</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Research processes</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Processes of RACF selection for focus group meetings</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Processes of WC selection for focus group meetings</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Processes of expert panel member composition</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Response rates over subsequent rounds</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Concepts about the relationship among older Korean residents</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Key elements of care standards</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abbreviations

ACP: Advanced Care Planning
ADL: Activities of Daily Living
AIHW: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ALE: Average Life Expectancy
CINAHL: Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature
COC: Continuity of Care
CVA: Cerebrovascular Accident
DH: Department of Health, the UK
DM: Diabetic Mellitus
DoHA: Department of Health and Ageing, Australia
ECS: Elements of Care Standards
HERC: Human Research and Ethics Committee
HHS: Human and Health Service, the US
HI: Health Insurance
HTN: Hypertension
IADL: Instrumental Activities of Daily Living
IAGG: International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics
IOM: Institute of Medicine, the US
IQR: Inter-Quartile Range
ISI: Institute for Science Information
KCI: Korea Citation Index
KFSW: Korea Federation of Senior Welfare
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RCT</td>
<td>Randomised Controlled Trials</td>
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<tr>
<td>RISS</td>
<td>The Research and Information Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCI</td>
<td>Science Citation Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td>Standard Deviation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>The United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>The United States (of America)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTI</td>
<td>Urinary Tract Infection</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHOQOL</td>
<td>World Health Organization Quality of Life</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abstract

The world’s ageing population means that many older people in developed countries now live out the latter parts of their lives in Long-Term Care (LTC) settings such as Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs). The majority of the older people in LTC settings have problems with cognition and a range of debilitating chronic conditions associated with frailty which means they are dependent on others for the needs of everyday living. South Korea has one of the world’s fastest growing ageing populations. The catalyst for this study was the instigation of a national government LTC insurance system in South Korea in 2008 and issues and concerns about the Quality of Care (QOC) in RACFs. The introduction of the LTC system highlighted the absence of care standards for care provision in RACFs in South Korea.

The research study reported in this thesis used modified Delphi methodology for the development of care standards for RACFs in South Korea. Methods included; 1) Document analysis of international care standards from Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, 2) qualitative descriptive analysis of the transcriptions of focus group meetings held with residents, their families and older people within the community, and 3) Analysis of the assessment data relating to the health and functional status of Korean residents. A pilot study was conducted of the Delphi method which was followed by three rounds of Delphi to complete the data collection, analysis and development of standards. Donabedian’s framework was used to inform the quality care elements of the care standards. A suite of standards for care in RACFs, underpinned by international principles of care for older people, comprising 15 statements of standards
and 155 criteria, were developed. International, cultural, social and individual requirements for care are reflected in the standards. Of importance is that the care standards may assist the South Korean Government’s National Health Insurance Service (NHIS) policy makers to ensure the provision of culturally appropriate care in RACFs. In addition, they may guide Quality Assurance (QA) activities for private and public service providers. Finally, the findings from this research provide nurses with an opportunity to play a central role in the emergence of the gerontological nursing specialty in South Korea. It also serves as a reference point for nurses from other countries in the Asia Pacific that are also facing rapidly ageing populations.