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Nurses' readiness to care for people with alcohol and HIV/AIDS comorbidity: a Q-methodology study**Peter Thomas Sandy**

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Background: HIV/AIDS and alcohol misuse are global public health problems. Alcohol misuse is prevalent among people with HIV/AIDS in South Africa. There is a link between nurses' 'readiness' and the provision of care to patients in general. This cornerstone of patients' care can affect both the amount and quality of care nurses provide to people with HIV/AIDS and alcohol comorbidity. Yet research has largely ignored nurses' 'readiness' to care for people with HIV/AIDS who misuse alcohol.

Aim: This study explored the 'readiness' of nurses at primary healthcare clinics to care for people with co-existing HIV/AIDS and alcohol misuse problems in Vhembe district of the Limpopo province in South Africa.

Methodology: This study adopted a qualitative methodology, and a Q-methodology research design. The study was conducted in Vhembe District of the Limpopo Province. Data were collected using a Q-table for participants to sort and rank a Q-sample. Additional data were collected by post-sorting individual interviews of participants. The Q-sort data were analysed using a by-person correlation and factor analysis. The post-sorting individual interview data were analysed using the principles of interpretative phenomenological analysis.

Results: Three major themes emerged from data analysis: lack of knowledge of HIV/AIDS and Alcohol comorbidity, lack of skills to offer support to people with HIV/AIDS and Alcohol comorbidity, and the need for an integrated care setting.

Conclusion: Nurses' are not ready to support people with comorbidity of alcohol and HIV/AIDS. Nurses need to develop their knowledge and skills in order to enhance their readiness for offering care to people with this comorbidity.

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