

Title: Development and psychometric analysis of a tool to assess professionalism among clinical dental students

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Abstract:

Background: Professionalism and ethics principles are essential to a strong trusted patient-doctor relationship, which is believed, could lead to more patient compliance and improved treatment outcomes.

Aims and Objectives: The purpose of our study was to design and psychometric analysis of an assessment tool for the professional behavior of dental students.

Materials and Methods: The study was done in School of Dentistry, Tehran University of Medical Sciences. After providing a pool of various criteria to assess professionalism in educational settings, an expert panel comprising developers and tutors of Medical Ethics course and members of dental curriculum revision committee prepared the primary version of the tool. The tool was set in a questionnaire frame to explore significance level and evaluation feasibility of each criterion. The questionnaire was completed by tutors of Medical Ethics course (N=6). After necessary revisions, in order to evaluate face and content validity, the checklist was given to eight experienced educators to determine the relevance, clarity and simplicity of the questions. At the second stage, the final checklist, prepared with 37 items, was given to educators from four different

clinical departments in Dental School to evaluate twenty students. To assess the reliability of this checklist, at least two professors evaluated each student and the weighted- κ was calculated. Finally, minor revisions were done according to feedbacks from previous stages.

Results: According to the obtained data, the total validity of the tool (S-CVI) was 100%. In all items, except just for one item, the weighted- κ was greater than or equal to 0.5 showed sufficient reliability of these items.

Conclusion: The designed tool to evaluate the professionalism among dental students in different clinical departments seems to be both valid and reliable.

Keywords: Professionalism, Dental Education, Educational Measurement, Validation studies.