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Exploring the concept of family caregiver's competence for managing behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia

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It is important for health professionals to teach family caregivers of persons with dementia about how to deal with Behavioral Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD) well. However, little information is available about what aspects exactly they need to learn to be competent in managing BPSD. The purpose of this study was to explore attributes of the concept of family caregiver's competence for managing BPSD (CM-BPSD). A rapid realist review was conducted to synthesize the complex range of concepts and define attributes of the family caregiver's CM-BPSD from the comprehensive literature. Three databases were used including MEDLINE, Embase and CINAHL. The search terms used were dementia, caregiver, coping (managing) and competence. The selection criteria were articles being published in English between 1990 and 2017 and considered appropriate for the topic. Among the 235 articles, 89 were excluded for duplication and six for not being written in English. From the concept synthesis of competence for managing, four dimensions were defined: Judging, setting the direction, adjusting and reflecting. For the concept of family caregiver's CM-BPSD, eleven attributes were derived. Findings of this study suggest that the concept of family caregiver's CM-BPSD should reflect the procedural aspect. Reflecting can be considered as a meta-competence because it may influence the other three phases of managing BPSD. A field study would be of great value to clarify the attributes of the concept.

Biography

Jun-Ah Song has completed her PhD from University of Michigan, School of Nursing and Postdoctoral studies from Oregon Health and Sciences University. She is a Professor of Korea University College of Nursing and an Expert Committee of the National Institute of Dementia in Korea. She has been serving as a Chief Editor of the *Journal of Korean Gerontological Nursing* and an Editorial Board Member of other professional journals. She has published more than 30 papers about caregiving issues related to dementia in reputed national and international journals.

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