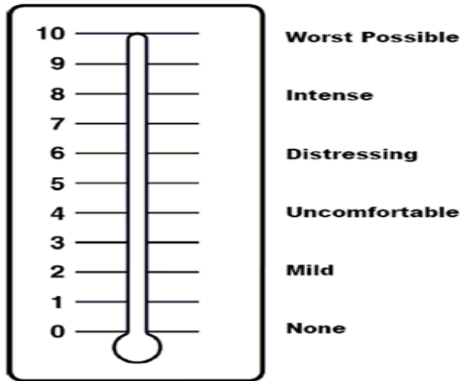


Moral Distress Thermometer and Associated Factors Survey

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Indiana University Health, Indianapolis, IN. Permission granted by L. Wocial, PhD, RN

Moral distress occurs when you believe you know the ethically correct thing to do, but something or someone restricts your ability to pursue the right course of action. Please respond to all three items presented below.
FIRST: Please circle the NUMBER (0 to 10) on the Moral Distress Thermometer that best describes how much moral distress you have been experiencing related to clinical learning experiences in nursing school this past week, including today.

Moral Distress Thermometer



SECOND: Reflect on the moral distress rating you selected and write a brief description of a clinical situation which contributed to the rating you selected:

THIRD: Individuals do not speak up or take action during distressing situations for a variety of reasons. Review the following reasons for not taking action and place an “x” in the box next to the reason(s) which you have experienced (select all that apply):

- I have a subordinate role in the patient care environment.
- I felt my concerns or questions were due to incomplete knowledge and judgment.
- I wanted to preserve my relationship with my preceptor and/or clinical faculty.
- I was fearful that if I spoke up I might not pass clinical.
- I am not comfortable dealing with conflict.
- I didn't know how to respectfully speak up to the person(s) involved.
- I have had a prior negative experience associated with taking action.
- Other (briefly describe): _____

Gender: Female Male decline to reply Age: _____ (write in your age)

Ethnicity: White African-American Hispanic Pacific Islander decline to reply
 other (please describe): _____

Thank you for completing this survey. Please place the survey in the provided envelope and return to the faculty researcher.

Figure 1. Moral distress survey. Includes Moral Distress Thermometer, written narrative of associated clinical scenario, reasons why students do not speak up during distressing situations, and demographic data.