

APPENDIX 2

PRE-TEST QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer ALL the questions by making an X in the appropriate block.

SECTION A: BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Date of birth:

1.1 Please indicate your designation as a registered nurse.

Registered nurse specialized in critical care	
Registered nurse with experience in critical care	
Enrolled nurse	
Nursing assistant	

1.2 Please rate your English skills with regard to speaking, reading and writing. For each skill, please make an X in only one box.

	Good	Average	Poor
Speak			
Read			
Write			

1.3 Do you speak other languages?

Yes	
No	

If yes, please list the other languages that you speak.

1.4 How many years of clinical experience do you have in the ICS?

years

1.5 What is your highest qualification as a registered nurse? Please mark only one box.

Post-basic diploma in critical care nursing	
Post-graduate diploma in critical care nursing	
Master's degree with specialization in critical care nursing	
Doctoral degree with focus on critical care nursing	
If other: please specify	

SECTION B: COMMUNICATION**2.1 How do you currently communicate with the patient who is in ICU?**

For each option, please make an X in the appropriate block.

	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
I use speech.					
I write messages.					
I draw pictures.					
I use a communication board.					
I use an electronic communication device.					
I use sign language.					
I use gestures.					
I use my facial expression.					
I use my mouth or lips.					
I use a language interpreter.					
The patient's family facilitates communication.					
The patient has a speaking valve.					

2.2 On average, how often do you need to communicate with the patient in your care during a 12-hour shift in ICU? Please mark only one box.

Never	1 time	2 times	3 times	4 times	5 times	6 times	7 times	8 times	9 times	10 times	> than 10

2.3 How frequently do you use the following ways of communication with the patient in ICU? For each option, please make an X in the appropriate block.

	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
I use comfort measures (e.g., <i>Don't worry; It's okay</i>).					
I repeat the message back.					
I watch for relief and recognition in the patient's facial expression.					
I use a communication device.					
I use a phone.					
I give the patient time to communicate.					
I use a calm voice.					
I release the patient's restraints.					
I provide the patient's glasses when needed.					
I provide the patient's hearing aids when needed.					
I use an interpreter.					

2.4 In your opinion, how frequently do the following patient-related communication barriers occur? For each option, please make an X in the appropriate block.

	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
Patient is withdrawn / depressed.					
Patient is delirious (hallucinating).					
Patient is agitated (anxious).					
Patient is confused.					
Patient is illiterate.					
Patient is orally intubated.					
Patient is nasally intubated.					
Patient has a tracheostomy in situ.					
Patient speaks a foreign language.					
Patient is sedated.					
Patient's hands are restrained.					
Patient's speech is not understandable (dysarthria).					
Patient has undergone surgery.					
Patient has a history of a stroke.					
Patient is too weak.					
Patient has a visual impairment.					
Patient has a hearing impairment.					

2.5 In your opinion, how frequently do the following nurse-related characteristics result in communication barriers in the ICU? For each option, please make an X in the appropriate block.

	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
I focus on the machines rather than on the patient.					
I have limited engagement in communication with the patient using speech (e.g. I do not ask questions).					
I have limited time and therefore do not use non-verbal communication with the patient (e.g. writing).					
I'm not proficient in the patient's language.					
I have limited time.					
I think that patients in ICU are not able to communicate.					
I don't think it is a priority to communicate with patients in ICU.					
I have a lack of knowledge about alternative communication methods.					
I feel negative towards communicating with patients in ICU.					
I am not easily available in the ICU.					
I am inattentive toward patients' communication as I have to focus on the					

health issues.					
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2.6 In your opinion, how frequently do the following environmental factors lead to communication barriers in the ICU? For each option, please make an X in the appropriate block.

	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
The ICU is too noisy.					
The ICU has limited privacy.					
The ICU has limited communication resources (such as communication boards).					
The ICU has poor lighting.					

2.7 What do you think can be possible topics of conversation with the patient in ICU? Please mark all the appropriate blocks with an X.

Patient's wants, e.g., <i>I want my family.</i>	
Patient's needs, e.g., <i>I need the bedpan.</i>	
Medical procedures, e.g., <i>I am going to take your blood pressure.</i>	
Routine medical questions, e.g., <i>I am going to draw blood.</i>	
Patient's comfort, e.g., <i>Are you cold?</i>	
To calm patient, i.e., <i>Everything is going to be fine.</i>	
Dietary questions, e.g., <i>Do you want some porridge?</i>	
Health assessment, e.g., <i>What is wrong?</i>	
Social closeness, e.g., <i>I miss my family, I wish they would visit me.</i>	
Social etiquette, e.g., <i>Hello. How are you?</i>	
If other, please specify:	

2.8 As far as you know, is there currently a speech therapist working in the ICU?

Yes		No	
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Thank you!

The questionnaire was custom developed for the purpose of this study based on questionnaires by Costello (2010), Hemsley et al. (2001) and Patak et al. (2009).