

# AN EVALUATION OF THE NEONATAL PALLIATIVE CARE ATTITUDE SCALE (NiPCAS)

Deborah A. Lawrence, MS, RNC-OB, Diane Shimborske, BSN, RNC-NIC - Cohen Children's Medical Center, New Hyde Park, New York

## Objective

- Evaluate the rigor of the NiPCAS, which was developed by Victoria Kain to measure nurses' attitudes about neonatal palliative care (PC) practices
- Provide information about a measurement relative to the understudied area of neonatal PC in the NICU setting, which can be easily administered

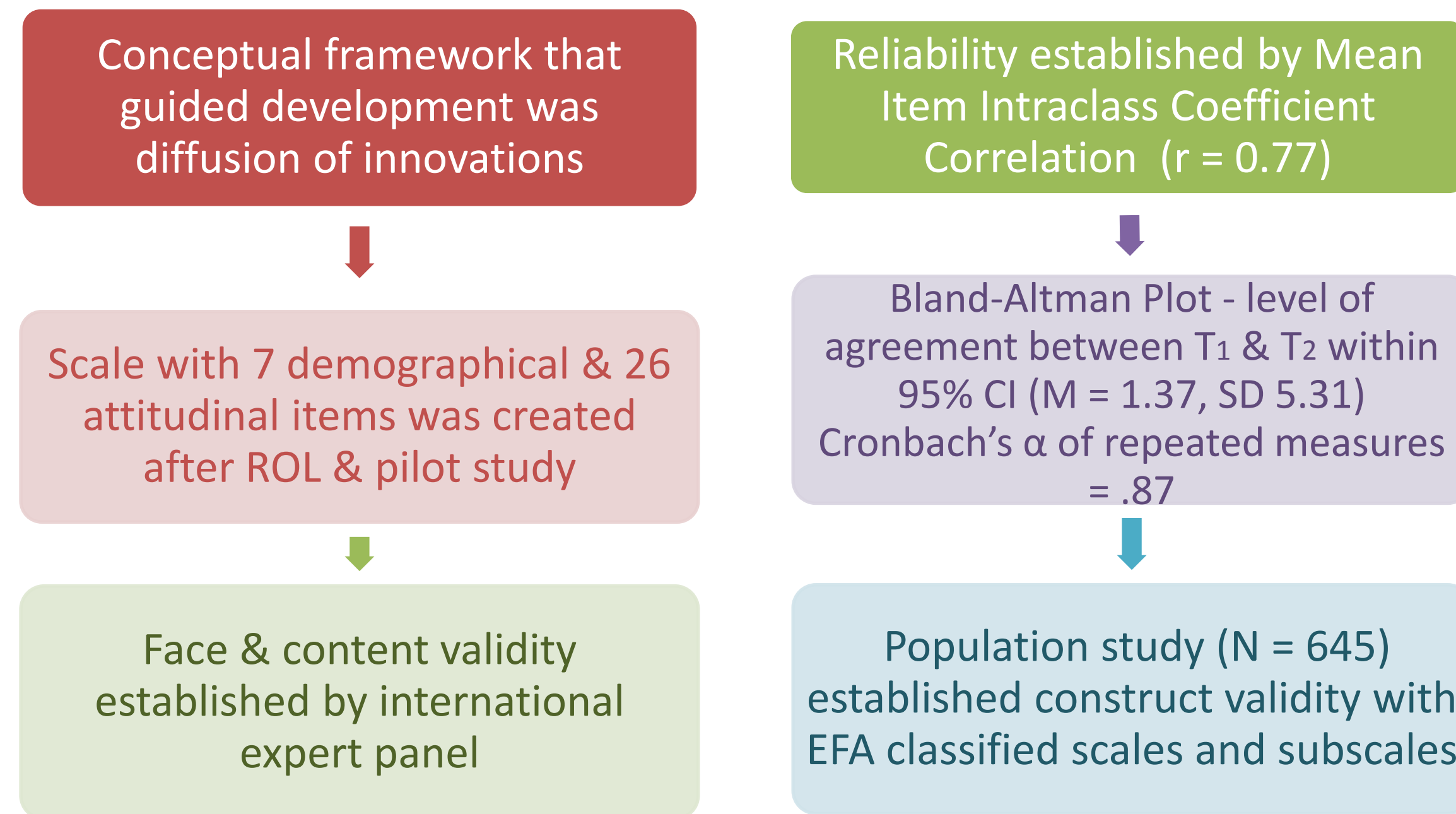
## Background

Infants can live with life-limiting conditions for various periods of time, & focus of care can shift from rescue to palliation

Clinicians have been challenged to consistently provide quality care at end-of-life

Palliative care is underutilized in the neonatal population

## Evaluation of Scale Development



## Results

- Factors that either promoted or hindered neonatal PC:
  - Organization (M = 3.3, SD = 0.95,  $\alpha = .73$ )
  - Resources (M = 2.8, SD 1.00,  $\alpha = .65$ )
  - Clinical (M = 3.2, SD = 0.97,  $\alpha = .63$ )
- 5 facilitators & 3 barriers were noted
- Interpretive study using focus groups (N = 24) confirmed & further clarified results

## Conclusion & Implications

- Small sample size of pilot (T<sub>1</sub> N = 28; T<sub>2</sub> N = 16) limited determination of reliability
- Further instrument testing using CFA is required to evaluate reliability
- Studies involving other clinicians are needed
- Culture, context & setting can affect results
- Similar research findings in U.S., Taiwan & Iran
- Evidence-based care guidelines, adaptable to individual NICUs, must be implemented
- Supportive measures for clinicians are required
- Formal training in PC skills can improve care

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