

Supplemental Table S6. Seven categories of Comfort Theory application in healthcare (n = 359)

Theory application category	N	Year of publication	Country of origin	Settings	Participants	Design/ methods
Interventions underpinned by Comfort Theory as the theoretical framework	56	2018 - 2023: n = 25, 1992 - 2017: n = 31.	USA: n = 24, China: n = 20, Turkey: n = 6, Portugal: n = 3, Indonesia: n = 2, Canada: n = 1.	Hospital: n= 45, Others: n = 11	Genitourinary system diseases: n = 9, Neoplasms: n = 8, Digestive system diseases: n = 6, Surgical or post-surgical status: n = 6, Palliative care: n = 6, Pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium: n = 4, Nervous system diseases: n = 3, Critical care patients: n = 3, Healthy people: n = 3, Circulatory system diseases: n = 2, Mental, behavioural or neurodevelopmental disorders: n = 2, Patients with pain: n = 2, Respiratory system diseases: n = 1, Chemotherapy patients: n = 1.	Quasi-experimental study: n = 29, RCT: n = 18, MMS: n = 9.
Interventions evaluated by instruments derived from Comfort Theory	96	2018 - 2022: n = 61, 1992 - 2017: n = 35.	China: n = 72, Turkey: n = 16, Iran: n = 4, USA: n = 1, Australia: n = 1, Thailand: n = 1, Malaysia: n = 1.	Hospital: n = 93, Nursing home: n = 2, School: n = 1.	Neoplasms: n = 21, Circulatory system diseases: n = 16, Pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium: n = 10, Digestive system diseases: n = 8, Genitourinary system diseases: n = 7, Musculoskeletal system or connective tissue diseases: n = 6, Surgical or post-surgical status: n = 6, Respiratory system diseases: n = 4, Injury, poisoning or certain other consequences of external causes: n = 4, Bedridden patients: n = 3,	RCT: n = 65, Quasi-experimental study: n = 29, MMS: n = 1, CSS: n = 1.

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Descriptive or observational studies of services or practices underpinned by Comfort Theory	34	2018 - 2023: n = 15, 1992 - 2017: n = 19	USA: n = 19, China: n = 10, Pakistan: n = 2, Brazil: n = 1, Chile: n = 1, Singapore: n = 1.	Hospital: n = 23, Others: n = 2.	Nervous system diseases: n = 2, Elders: n = 2, Endocrine, nutritional or metabolic diseases: n = 2, Mental, behavioural or neurodevelopmental disorders: n = 1, Certain infectious or parasitic diseases: n = 1, Ear or mastoid process diseases: n = 1, Faecal incontinence patients: n =1, Unspecified inpatients: n = 2. Neoplasms: n = 8, Healthy people: n = 6, Circulatory system disease: n = 3, Palliative care: n = 3,Respiratory system diseases: n = 2, Elders: n = 2, Pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium: n = 2, Surgical or post-surgical status: n = 2, Genitourinary system diseases: n = 1, Neurocognitive disorders patients: n = 1, Injury, poisoning or certain other consequences of external causes: n = 1, Critical care: n = 1, Post traumatic loss of limb patients: n = 1, Patients with pain: n = 1.	Case study: n = 13, Service description: n = 10, CCS: n = 6, Quasi-experimental study: n = 2, MMS: n = 2, Cohort study: n = 1.
Surveys using questionnaires derived from Comfort Theory	71	2018 - 2023: n = 29, 1992 - 2017: n = 42.	China: n = 29, USA: n = 15, Turkey: n = 12, Brazil: n = 7,	Hospital: n = 56, Others: n = 15.	Neoplasms: n = 12, Genitourinary system diseases: n = 8, Pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium: n = 7, Healthy people: n = 7, Surgical or	CSS: n = 51 (in which online survey: n = 5), Longitudinal study: n = 16, MMS: n = 3,

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			Korea: n = 2, Austria + Germany: n = 1, Colombia: n = 1, Jordan: n = 1, Iran: n = 1, Israel: n = 1, Thailand: n = 1.		post-surgical status: n = 6, Digestive system diseases: n = 5, Palliative care: n = 5, Circulatory system diseases: n = 4, Nervous system diseases: n = 3, Critical care: n = 3, Elder patients and nurses: n = 3, Urinary incontinence patients: n = 2, Respiratory system diseases: n = 2, Injury, poisoning or certain other consequences of external causes: n = 1, Certain infectious or parasitic diseases: n = 1, Multiple system: n = 1, Unspecified: n = 1.	Cohort study: n = 1.
Questionnaires development or adaption based on Comfort Theory	34	2018 - 2023: n = 15, 1992 - 2017: n = 19.	China: n = 12, Austria + Germany: n = 4, Brazil: n = 4, Portugal: n = 4, Turkey: n = 4, USA: n = 3, Spain: n = 2, Indonesia: n = 1.	Hospital: n = 28, Others: n = 6.	Neoplasms: n = 5, Genitourinary system diseases: n = 5, Healthy people: n = 5, Diseases of the musculoskeletal system or connective tissue: n = 4, Surgical or post-surgical status patients: n = 4, Nervous system disease: n = 3, Circulatory system diseases: n = 2, Palliative care: n = 2, Mental, behavioural or neurodevelopmental disorders: n = 1, Pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium: n = 1, Unspecified participants: n = 2.	Questionnaire development: n = 15, Questionnaire cross-cultural adaption: n = 8, Questionnaire psychometric test (reliability and validity): n = 7, Questionnaire revalidation in populations: n = 2, Questionnaire validation feasibility study: n = 2.

Theory application category	N	Year of publication	Country of origin	Settings	Participants	Design/ methods
Qualitative studies interpreted by Comfort Theory	21	2018 - 2023: n = 13, 1992 - 2017: n = 8.	Brazil: n = 8, USA: n = 4, Australia: n = 1, Austria: n = 1, China: n = 1, Norway: n = 1, Portugal: n = 1, Sweden: n = 1, Wales: n = 1, Indonesia: n = 1, Ecuador: n = 1.	Hospital: n = 14, Others: n = 7.	Patients and staff members: n = 4, Circulatory system diseases: n = 3, Palliative care: n = 2, Healthy people: n = 2, Pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium: n = 2, Neoplasms: n =1, Nervous system diseases: n = 1, Elder patients: n =1, Surgical or post-surgical status: n = 1.	Qualitative study: n = 6, Descriptive qualitative study: n = 5, Phenomenological study: n = 3, Reflective qualitative study: n = 2, Case study: n = 2, Explorative qualitative study: n = 1, Collective subject discourse: n = 1. Secondary qualitative analysis: n = 1.
Literature reviews and discussion about Comfort Theory use	47	2018 - 2023: n = 19, 1992 - 2017: n = 27.	USA: n = 18, China: n = 11, Portugal: n = 7, Brazil: n = 5, Canada: n = 2, Indonesia: n = 1, Kazakhstan: n = 1, Spain: n = 1, Turkey: n = 1.	N/A	N/A	Literature review: n =23 (which included: integrative review: n = 4, concept analysis: n = 3, systematic review: n = 2, theory derivation method: n = 1, scoping review: n = 1, psychometric review: n = 1.), Literature review and discussion paper: n = 11, Literature review

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						and discussion as a book chapter: n = 6, Reflection: n = 6, Literature review and discussion as a slide presentation: n = 1.
CCS: case-controlled study; CSS: cross-sectional study; MMS: mixed methods study; N/A: Not applicable; RCT: randomized controlled trial; USA: United states of America.						
The sum for column of year was 358 as one document had not this information.						