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<b>College *</b>	College of Nursing
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<b>Title of Research *</b>	A Theory-Driven Observational Apathy Scale for People with Dementia
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**Introduction & Purpose \***

Apathy is the most prevalent neuropsychiatric problem in dementia but is often not identified early nor well managed. Apathy is defined as lack of motivation demonstrated as lack of goal-directed behavior and cognitive activity, and lack of emotional responsiveness. Apathy measures in advanced dementia and advanced apathy are challenging when self-report information is difficult to obtain. Lack of socio-environmental incentive is an associated factor of apathy but its impact has not been well studied.

The purpose of this study is to develop an observational apathy scale integrating concepts of apathy and motivation to quantify apathy and to identify modifiable external factors.

**Experimental Design \***

This was a three-phase study. A coding schema was established using attributes of apathy from a concept analysis to develop the Apathy in Dementia Observational Scale (ADOS). Next, the ADOS was field-tested with six nursing home residents with dementia. Finally, inter-rater reliability was evaluated using a large repository of videotapes of institutionalized residents with dementia. Ten participants and three videotaped observations for each participant were randomly chosen and then a code-able segment was selected from each observation through screening. Two trained coders independently coded each observation segment using the ADOS (N=30). Inter-rater reliability was assessed.

**Results \***

The ADOS consists of two sections: external motivators and expressions of motivation. Six coding items on external motivators were: sources, strength, specificity, delivery, and nature of the motivators. The expressions of motivation include two items: cognitive/behavioral and emotional expression. Preliminary data showed that the overall agreement was 61.25%. The agreements for items of external motivator were 33.33%–72%. The agreements for cognitive/behavioral expression and motional expression were 60% and 70%, respectively.

**Conclusions \***

The ADOS may help shed light on measuring apathy and identifying external factors to prevent and manage apathy. The inter-rater reliability is adequate. Further coding manual refinement to improve reliability is desirable.

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