Appendix. Loadings of the geriatric attitude questions in factor analysis

Question	Source	Social value	Medical care	Residency training	Compassion	Geriatric education	Resource distribution	Communality
1. Most old people are pleasant to be with.	lee	*0.382	-0.137	0.32	0.25	0.024	-0.492	0.572
2. The federal government should reallocate money from Medicare to research on AIDS or pediatric disease.	lee	0.268	0.305	-0.098	0.218	-0.202	*0.543	0.558
3. If I have the choice, I would rather see younger patients than elderly ones.	lee	0.226	*0.484	0.162	0.157	0.29	-0.296	0.507
4. It is society's responsibility to provide care for its elderly persons.	lee	*0.454	-0.321	0.058	0.285	-0.364	0.036	0.528
5. Medical care for old people uses up too much human and material resources	lee	0.267	*0.575	0.021	0.073	0.252	0.252	0.534
6. As people grow older, they become less organized and more confused.	lee	0.219	*0.517	0.157	0.208	0.014	-0.328	0.491
7. Elderly patients tend to be more appreciative of the medical care I provide than are younger patients.	lee	0.177	-0.187	0.225	*0.599	0.345	0.082	0.602
8. Taking a medical history from elderly patients is frequently an ordeal.	lee	0.094	*0.559	0.224	-0.137	0.179	-0.119	0.436
9. I tend to pay more attention and have more sympathy towards my elderly patients than my younger patients.	lee	-0.007	-0.225	0.059	*0.688	0.203	0.165	0.595
10. Old people require special attention when prescribing pain medication.	new	*0.357	-0.363	0.145	-0.06	-0.193	-0.256	0.386
11. Treatment of chronically ill old patients is hopeless.	lee	*0.567	0.172	0.224	-0.151	-0.201	0.06	0.468

Item	Source	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	Communality
12. Old persons don't contribute their fair share towards paying for their health care.	lee	*0.673	0.097	0.062	0.161	-0.351	0.265	0.685
13. In general, old people act too slow for modern society.	lee	*0.649	0.198	0.206	-0.047	-0.277	-0.121	0.596
14. Mild to moderate changes in mental status are not important in the emergency department and better dealt with by inpatient services.	new	*0.529	0.038	0.258	-0.294	0.094	0.245	0.503
15. The current structure of emergency departments are well suited to care for our nations elderly.	new	*0.509	-0.082	-0.413	-0.126	-0.039	-0.16	0.48
16. EM residents are well trained to care for elderly patients.	new	-0.373	-0.11	*0.692	-0.019	0.03	0.209	0.675
17. Sepsis guidelines will do little to improve care of elderly patients in the ED.	new	*0.387	-0.322	0.321	-0.346	0.21	0.14	0.54
18. Geriatric lectures will do little to improve the elderly patients in the ED.	new	0.376	-0.254	0.265	-0.312	*0.547	0.126	0.688
19. Systems and operations in the ED need to be adapted for the large influx of elderly patients.	new	*0.410	-0.455	-0.047	0.001	0.026	-0.087	0.385
20. My residency training has completely prepared me to care for the elderly ED patient.	new	-0.378	-0.12	*0.718	0.027	-0.174	-0.021	0.704
21. I have little need for additional training in geriatric issues	new	*0.497	-0.201	-0.432	0.062	0.434	0.018	0.666
Eigenvalue of each factor		3.48	2.1	1.98	1.5	1.36	1.17	
Percentage of variance explained by each factor		16.60%	10.00%	9.44%	7.12%	6.50%	5.58%	

total variance	55.24%					
Cronbach reliability coefficient of each factor	0.724	0.513	0.530	0.237	0.243	0.137
Cronbach reliability coefficient of all 21 questions	.640					
Cronbach reliability coefficient of 14 question from prior study	.626					

Note: Based on the principle-components method with Varimax rotation.
*Highest loading between each item and a factor
Only factors with an eigenvalue 1.0 were retained, because they were considered to be distinct factors.