

Concept Article I: Theoretical Framework in Clinical Nursing Research

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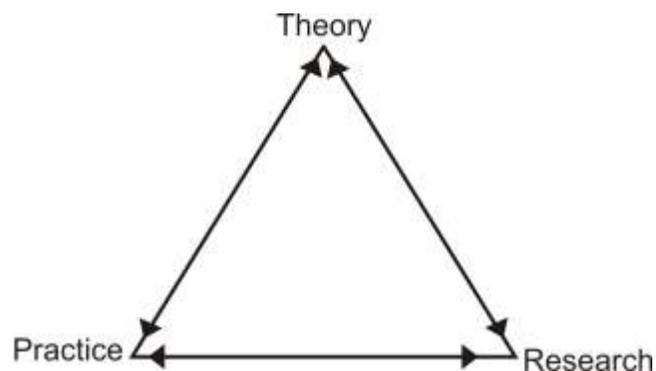
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Introduction

To be recognized as an autonomous profession, nursing must possess scientific body of knowledge developed through research. Any research that has a direct bearing on nursing practice, is considered nursing research as nursing is referred to as a practice discipline

Theory-Practice Research linkage

Nurse researchers are concerned with both theory generation and the development of theories. Research and practice are linked with theory. Each is intricately connected with the other to create the knowledge base for the discipline of nursing. **Theory** guides practice and research. **Practice** enables testing of theory and generate question for research. **Research** contributes to the theory building



Review, define, and explain the theory terminologies

Theory is a set of two or more concepts. That presents a systematic view of the phenomenon. That helps to describe, explain, predict or control the phenomenon

Concept is a building block of the theory. It is word picture or mental idea of a phenomenon. Concept may be very discrete or it may be very abstract

Construct is a highly abstract complex phenomenon, concepts that cannot be directly observed, but must be inferred by certain indicators of the phenomenon E.g. wellness, self esteem, Quality of Life etc. and can be

identified by measurable concept e.g. Lab test, observation check list etc.

Model is a symbolic representation of some phenomena presented by pictorial, structural, diagrammatic, or mathematical model. They use abstractions (i.e. concept) as the building blocks, but they attempt to represent reality with a minimal use of words.

Conceptual definition is the general meaning of concepts e.g. conservation = preservation or restoration of natural environment

Operational definition specifies how the researcher gives meaning to that concept and specifies how the concept will be measured E.g. Conservation (Levin 1973), reduction in energy expenditure (EISP scale), improvement in personal life (QoL scale), structural (PUSH scale) and social (observation check list) integrity. All the above mentioned concepts are specific and measurable.

Clinical Nursing Research

Research carried out by nurses in the clinical setting is designed to provide information which will help to improve patient care. It focuses on the effects of nursing intervention on clinical or nurse sensitive outcome. These interventions include nurse initiated treatment resulting from nursing diagnosis for better patient care. The content of the intervention focuses on the relationship between patients' problem and target outcome.

Frame Work

In clinical nursing research framework illustrates the overall conceptual design of the study. Deductive and inductive reasoning are the basic frame work for research **Deductive reasoning** is used in quantitative research. Here the researcher begins with general topic, narrows it down to research questions and hypothesizes