EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN SAFETY CULTURE AND HOSPITAL NURSING PRACTICE

Patricia S. Groves RN (Doctoral Candidate)

(Bonnie Wakefield RN, PhD)
Sinclair School of Nursing

Statement of the Problem
Patient safety is a significant problem with extensive human and healthcare costs, yet the safety-oriented actions of individual nurses within an organization have not been closely examined. The specific aim of this study is to describe the process by which hospital staff nurses (agents) keep patients safe, while constrained/enabled by sets of safety rules and resources (safety culture structures) in the organization.

Theoretical Framework
This study utilizes Structuration Theory as a theoretical framework. Structuration Theory suggests that health care organization members share patient safety values through communication and enact them in practice, (re)producing a system that constrains and enables member actions in terms of patient safety.

Subjects
Semi-structured interviews are being conducted with a minimum of ten hospital bedside nurses in medical/surgical patient care units at a Midwest academic medical center.

Methodology
This study is being conducted using grounded theory methodology. Data collection, analysis, and sampling are simultaneous and reciprocal, allowing for grounding in the data through constant comparative analysis and theoretical sampling. Sampling beyond initial participants will be based on emerging categories in the data and subsequent identification of gaps in the emergent theory. When theoretical saturation is reached, the categories will be integrated into a substantive grounded theory.

Implications
This study will provide knowledge beyond what safety culture and climate surveys provide; rather than simply describing the opinions or perceptions of organizational members, it will describe the crucial events, processes, and outcomes that impact those opinions and perceptions.