



# Nursing Research

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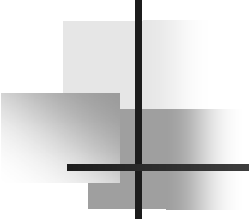
NU 360 Session 3

# What is the Primary Goal of Nursing Research



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- To develop a specialized, scientifically based body of knowledge unique to nursing
- develop and test nursing theories;
- understand nursing phenomena;
- foster professional commitment & accountability;
- help nurses make informed decisions in patient care;
- validate the effectiveness of particular nursing measures;
- help document nursing's unique role in the health care delivery system;
- improve quality of care and care delivery;
- provide a link between theory & practice;
- advance nursing as a profession.

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- The scientific method is one of the primary sources of generating nursing knowledge.



## Scientific Method Characteristics:

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- Control of variables and biases
- Use of empirical evidence to generate knowledge
- Produce generalizable results



# Nurse Researchers use the Scientific Method to:

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- Describe phenomena
- Explore relationships among phenomena
- Explain phenomena and increase understanding
- Predict the causes of relationships among phenomena
- Control phenomena



# Limitations of the Scientific Method

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- Every research study has flaws
- No one study proves or disproves a hypothesis
- Ethical issues can constrain researchers
- Holistic studies of humans are difficult
- Adequate control is hard to maintain



# Nursing also relies on other sources of knowledge

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- Tradition
- Authority
- Intuition
- Trial and Error
- Personal Experience
- Logical Reasoning



# Nursing Research may be:

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- **Basic:** Undertaken to advance knowledge in a given area, helps the researcher understand relationships among phenomena
- **Applied:** Undertaken to remedy a particular problem or modify a situation, helps the researcher to make decisions or evaluate techniques. (Clinical nursing problems)



# Roles in nursing research

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- **ADN graduates:** have awareness of the value of nursing research
- **BSN graduates:** understand each step of the research process; interpret, evaluate, determine the credibility of research findings; integrate research into clinical practice; participate in studies
- **MSN graduates:** are active members of the research team, they are clinical experts
- **PhD graduates:** appraise, design and conduct research; they develop theoretical explanations of nursing phenomena; and they disseminate findings (presentations, publications)



# Categories of Nursing Research

- Quantitative Research
- Qualitative Research



# Quantitative Research

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- State the problem
- Define the terms
- Review the literature
- Determine the methodology
- Collect the data
- Analyze the data
- Examine the generalizability
- Communicate the results



# Research, theory, Practice

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- How do the three relate?
- What research are you aware of?
- How is it implemented in your practice setting?
- How we do evaluate the reliability and validity of the research we read?



# Qualitative Research

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- Qualitative research is the investigation of human experiences or a phenomenon in naturalistic settings, pursuing meanings that inform theory, practice and further research.



# Quantitative research:

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- Deductive Reasoning: It is a process by which specifics are inferred from general principles. Deductive reasoning relies on the accuracy of the general principles to arrive at valid conclusions.
- Think back to P-values in statistics



# Qualitative Research

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- Inductive Reasoning: general principles are inferred from specific observations. Inductive reasoning relies on the representativeness of the specific observations to arrive at valid conclusions.



# Qualitative Research

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- Looks at the broad phenomenon and moves to the specific
- uses two or more variables that form the basis for a concluding assertion of a relationship between the study variables (termed "relational statements")
- Example: Cheryl Beck's Postpartum Depression Predictors Inventory



# Quantitative Research

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- Moves from specific information to broad generalizations and is based upon statistical inference
- quantitative research uses data represented as numbers.