

# THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE CRITICAL THINKING OF NURSES: THE NURSES' PERCEPTION

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# Problem Statement



- It is not fully understood to what degree or if technology distances the healthcare provider from the human touch (Alexander & Staggers, 2009).



# Research Design

Qualitative phenomenological approach.

# Research Questions

1. What is the perceived relationship between critical thinking ability and the amount of technology used by a registered nurse at the bedside?
2. What is the perceived relationship between critical thinking ability and the degree to which the registered bedside nurse establishes engaged caring with the patient?
3. What is the perceived relationship between technology, critical thinking and the degree of engaged caring for the patient by the registered nurse at the bedside?



# Study Sample

- 17 nurses volunteered to participate
  - 1 nurse did not meet the essential criteria of working as a bedside nurse
  - 1 nurse was informed that saturation had been achieved and interviews were no longer being conducted
- 15 hospital bedside nurses
- Oregon and Southern Washington area
- Hospitals certified for a minimum of 150 beds

Theme 1:

Technology  
supports  
critical thinking



# Theme 2:

## Technology Induces an Environment of Dependence

# Theme 3:

Technology is  
a Part of Medical Caring



# Theme 4:

Technology is not  
a Part of Emotional/Spiritual  
Caring

# Theme 5:

Technology,  
Critical Thinking  
and Caring  
are Woven Together



# Recommendations

- engage in conversations and research: probe into the perceived impact that technological changes are having on their practice.
- build their understanding of time
- explore opportunities to understand reliance on technology and how we can address the reliance

# Future Research

- Technology in healthcare creates social engineering, changing the ecology of healthcare (Reichert, 2006). What is the nurses perception of the changing ecology of healthcare?
- What environments enhance the technology requirements of healthcare, while meeting the nursing needs of healthcare?



# Questions

