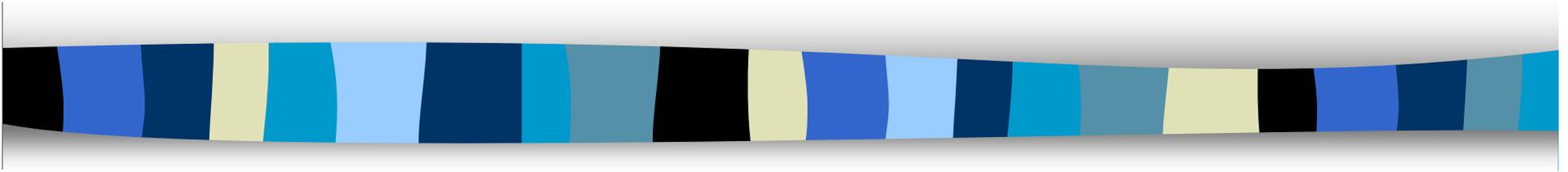


SEN-SRN Conversion Course
Research Module



Introduction to Nursing Research

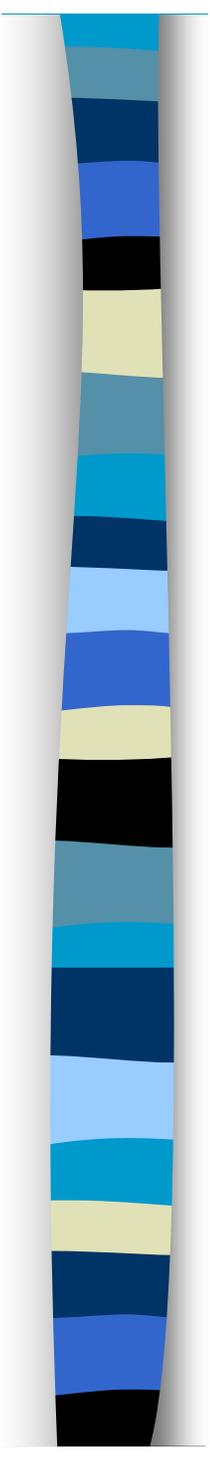
Presented By:

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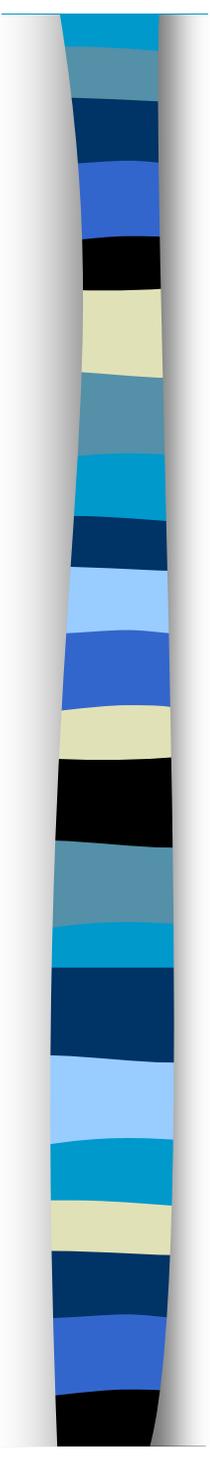
Lecture Overview

- Definitions of Nursing Research
- Scientific Research
- Purposes of Nursing Research
- Goals for Conducting Nursing Research
- Client Advocate During Studies
- Subjects in Studies
- Ethical Considerations
- Conclusion



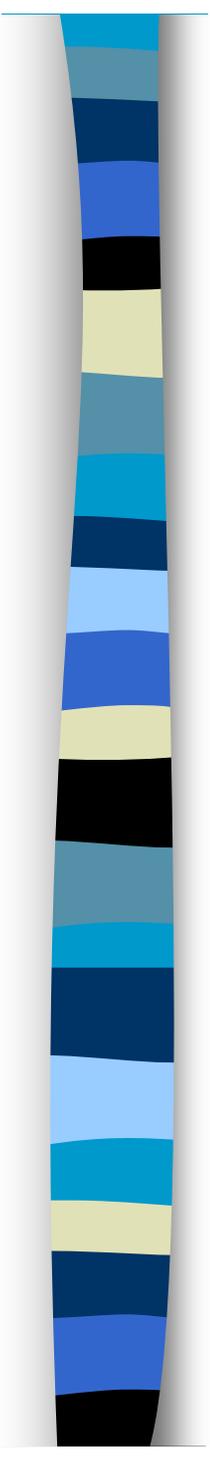
Definitions of Nursing Research

- Polit and Hungler (1995) have broadly defined nursing research as “a systematic search for knowledge about issues of importance to the nursing profession” (p. 3).
- Burns and Grove (1997) defined nursing research as being concerned with knowledge that directly and indirectly influences clinical nursing practice.
- In this paper, the term **nursing research** is defined as the systematic, objective process of analysing phenomena of importance to nursing. Using this definition, nursing research includes all studies concerning nursing practice, nursing education, and nursing administration and nurses themselves



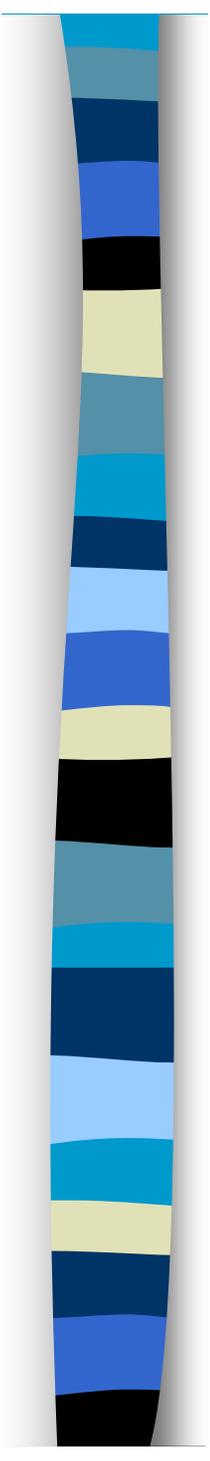
Scientific Research

- According to Polit and Hungler (1995), the scientific approach is a “ general set of orderly, disciplined procedures used to acquire dependable and useful information”
 - Scientific research is characterised by several features:
 1. The researcher uses systematic, orderly and objective methods of seeking information.
 2. This information is gained in the form of data or facts that are obtained in an unbiased manner.
 3. The researcher tries to exercise as much control as possible over the research situation, to minimise biased results.
- The researcher’s opinions and personal biases should not influence the findings of a study.



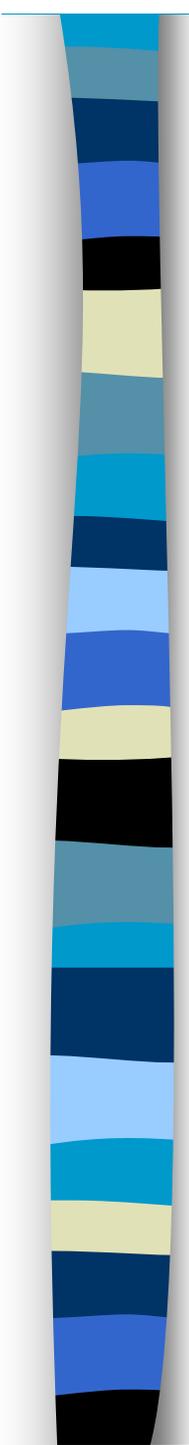
Similarities

- ***There are many similarities between scientific research and the problem-solving approach.***
The purposes of these two activities are, however, quite different.
 - ***Problem solving*** attempts to seek a solution to an immediate, actual problem that exists for a person or for persons in given settings.
 - ***Scientific research*** seeks to obtain knowledge that can be generalised to other people and to other settings.



Purposes of Nursing Research

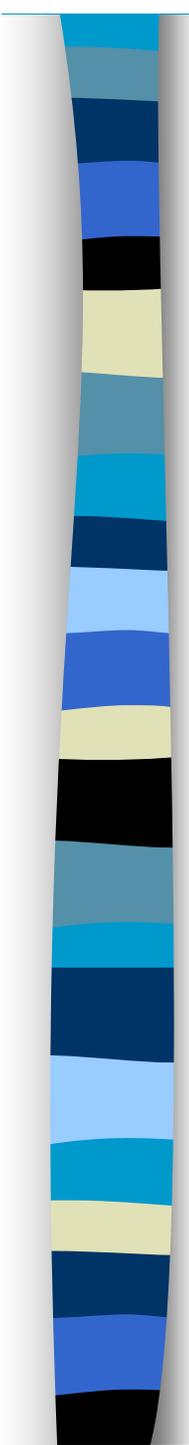
- Nursing research is concerned with:
 - Generating new knowledge.
 - Utilisation of newly acquired knowledge to solve problems.
 - Generate and develop new theories and testing these theories.



Goals for Conducting Nursing Research

Some of the goals for conducting nursing research include:

- Improvements in nursing care. Research findings enable the nurse to describe, explain, predict, and control phenomena related to the health of clients
- Credibility of the nursing profession. Through research, nurses can determine what it is that they do and how they do it that distinguishes them from other groups in the health care field.
- Accountability for nursing practice. To be accountable for their practice, nurses must have sound rationales for their actions, based on knowledge that is gained through scientific research.
- Documentation of the cost-effectiveness of nursing care. If nursing care can be demonstrated to be cost-effective, hospitals will look to other sources for “cutting the fat”.



Client Advocate During Studies

- All nurses have the responsibility to act as client advocates when clients are involved in research.
- This advocacy involves making sure that the ethical aspects of research are defended. Nurses can help answer questions and explain a study to potential participants before the study begins.
- Nurses should be available during the study to answer questions or provide support to study participants.



Subjects in Studies

- Nurses can also act as subjects in research
- Nurses can also be chosen as subjects to form part of the group that is being investigated.

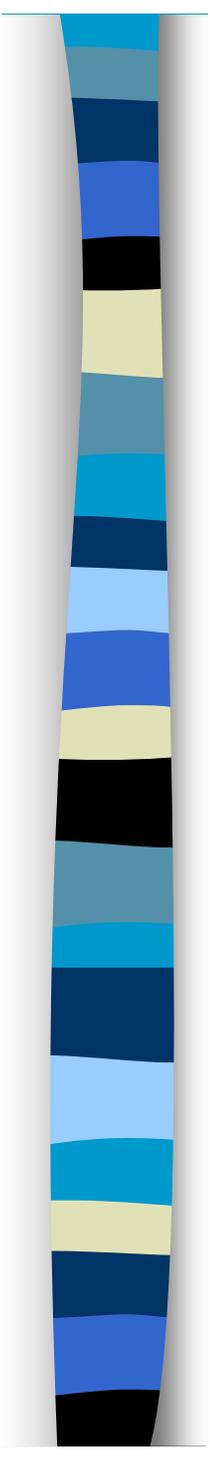


Ethical Considerations

Ethics is concerned with rules and principles of human behaviour.

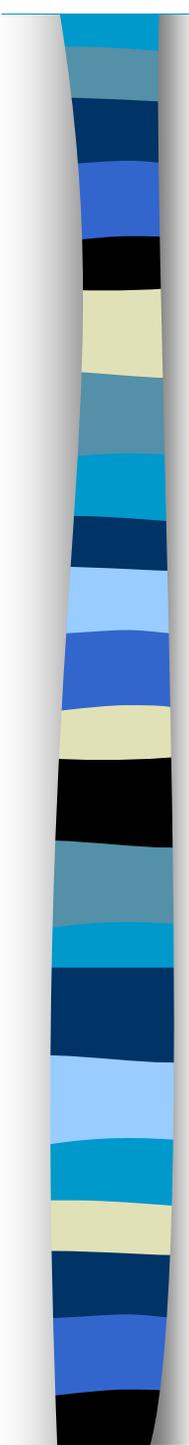
The present ethical standards are based on guidelines that follow several criteria for research, including:

1. Researcher must inform subjects about the study.
2. Research must be for the good of society.
3. Research must be based on animal experiments, if possible.
4. Researcher must try to avoid injury to research subjects.
5. Researcher must be qualified to conduct research.
6. Subjects or the researcher can stop the study if problems occur.



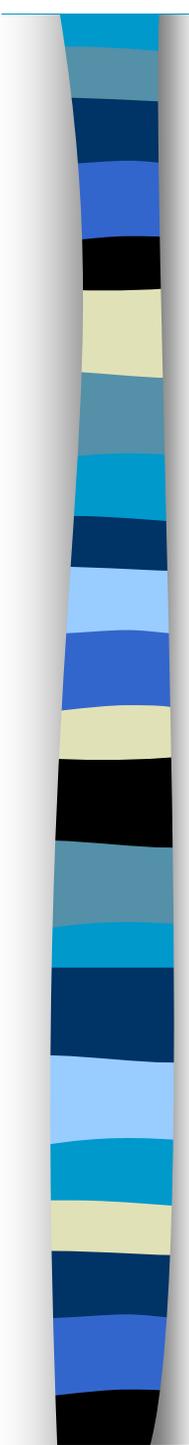
Elements of Informed Consent

Informed consent means that the subjects agree to participate in studies about which they have complete understanding of the study before the study begins.



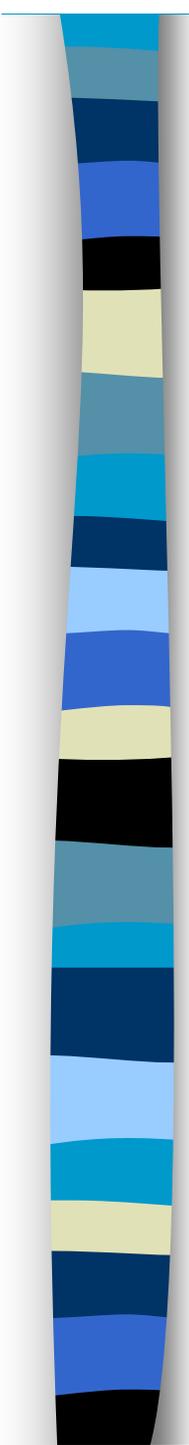
Major elements of informed consent (1)

- Researcher is identified and credentials (qualifications) presented
- Subject (participants) selection process is described.
- Purpose (or objectives) of study is described.
- Study procedures (ex. when, where, time involvement, activities to be performed etc.) are discussed.



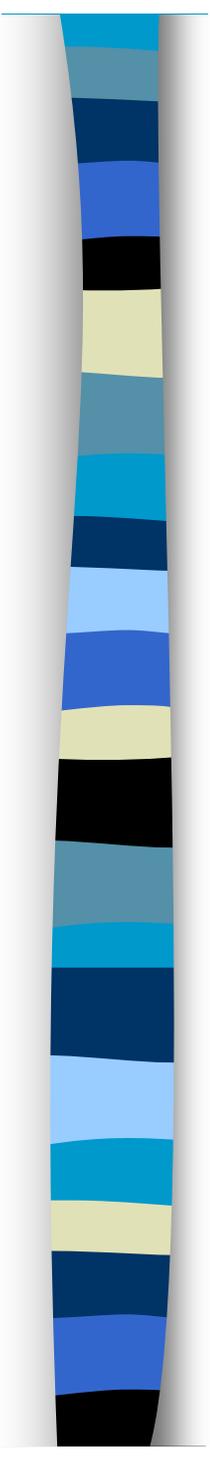
Major elements of informed consent (2)

- Potential risks (possible discomforts, either physical or psychological) are described.
- Potential benefits are described. The researcher should describe to potential subjects benefits that are applicable to both the people involved in the study as well as how the results could benefit others.
- Compensation (monetary compensation or any other type of compensation should be described to potential subjects), if any, is discussed
- Alternative procedures, if any, are disclosed.



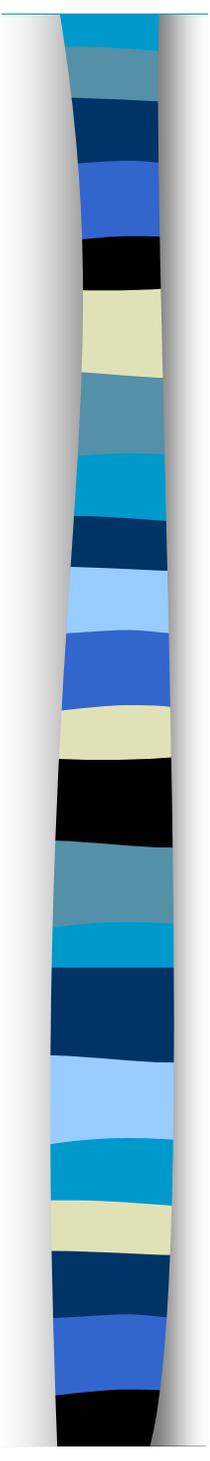
Major elements of informed consent (3)

- Anonymity (no one can identify the subjects in a study) or confidentiality (the researcher will protect the subjects' identities) is assured.
- Right to refuse to participate or withdraw from the study without penalty is assured. All participation in nursing research must be voluntary.
- Offer to answer all questions is made. The researcher is obligated to be available (by phone or by mail) if questions arise at a later time or if subjects have questions when reading the written explanation of the study.
- Means of obtaining study results is presented. Research subjects should always be given the opportunity to obtain the study results.



Documentation of Informed Consent

- The researcher must document that informed consent has been obtained. Preferably, consent should be included in the questionnaire itself by adding the following:
 - ***RETURN OF THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WILL INDICATE YOUR CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY.***
 - Oral permission must be witnessed by a third person.



Conclusion

The nurse researcher has the responsibility to protect the privacy and dignity of the people involved in the research and protects them from harm. The nurse researcher must assume responsibility for study conditions and avoid undue physical or psychological risks to the subjects.