

Decision-making in clinical practice: An exploratory study

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Aim:

- To develop an ethical model of professional decision-making

Objectives:

- To undertake a conversation as a coherent process of enquiry about decision-making.
- To gain a deeper understanding of decision-making in clinical practice by exploring nurses' narratives of practice and a wide range of published literature.

Research Design:

This is a four phase study with the emphasis on the researcher gaining insight whilst progressing through the stages of the research process. The research design reflects a broadly 'grounded theory' approach, of moving from 'observed phenomena' to a 'conceptual overview'.

Phase 1: Data Collection:

Gathering and reviewing of nursing literature and empirical research. A number of individual/group interviews will be conducted to elicit narratives that participants tell about their practices.

Phase 2: Data Analysis

Data gathered will be analysed using a deconstructive method (ethnomethodology) that explores and articulates the resources that participants draw on in constructing their narratives.

Phase 3: Conceptual Analysis

Search for examples of 'good decisions'. Sources include philosophy and literature.

Phase 4: Reconstruction

This phase, including the writing up period, will bring together both empirical and conceptual phases of the research process, to produce an ethically coherent and holistic model of decision-making that takes account of both the personal and the professional.

