Notice of the Final Oral Examination for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

of

WENDY NEANDER

MN (University of Alberta, 1988)
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“Enacting Medication Administration as Nursing Practice in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: A Praxiographic Study”

School of Nursing

Thursday, April 16, 2020
1:30 P.M.
Conducted Remotely

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Mary Ellen Purkis, School of Nursing, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Karen MacKinnon, School of Nursing, UVic (Member)
Dr. Karen Courtney, School of Health Information Science, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Margaret Quance, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Mount Royal University

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Kathy Gaul, School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

The purpose of this research was to offer a description of the complexity of nurses’ medication administration practices in relationships with technology. The clinical situations and circumstances in which nurses administer medications today are comprised of rapidly changing technological initiatives that are intended to support safe, efficient care. Nurses’ medication administration practices are not immune to a rapidly changing technological health care environment (Folkman & Rankin 2010). Research and literature has documented medication administration occurs in complex situations and nurses apply particular knowledge that supports decision-making and clinical practices for patient safety (Bucknall, et al., 2019; Carayon, et. al., 2014; Edwards & Axe, 2015; Eisenhauer, Hurley & Dolan, 2007; Folkman & Rankin, 2010; Rohde & Domm, 2018; Smeulers, Ondewater, Van Zwieten & Vermeulen, 2014).

Praxiographic methodology was used to describe deeply embedded knowledge and values that shape and guide contemporary nursing practice. Lack of attention to knowledge and values that shape and guide nursing practice and care, may contribute to the risk that those practices may be lost as nurses retire amongst a rapidly changing healthcare environment (Mol, Moser & Pols, 2010). A highly technical Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) was the location for the study. Participants included twelve NICU nurses and a pharmacist.

The research findings included the significance of understanding NICU nurses’ use of local and universal maps to navigate practice to navigate the complexity of medication administration. Furthermore, the research documented NICU nurses’ medication administration practices as inseparable from technology. Further practice based research is recommended to support the development of technologies that incorporate nurses’ medication administration practices.