CONCEPT ANALYSIS: LACK OF ANONYMITY

Authors: Marilyn Swan, MSN, RN, and Barbara Hobbs, PhD, RN, NEA-BC

Purpose/Aim: Re-examine the concept analysis on lack of anonymity, conducted by Lee (1998), by reviewing and incorporating literature from 2008 to present. The scope of the literature will be broad and extend beyond a rural focus. Empirical referents, missing in the original work, will be identified, and serve as a basis for future development of a research questionnaire to begin measuring the concept. The aim is to incorporate new knowledge and understanding to create an updated conceptualization of lack of anonymity as a construct of Rural Nursing Theory. This project is in progress, with completion anticipated in December 2013.

Rationale/Background: Since Lee (1998) conducted the original concept analysis, research from communication, technology, psychology, medicine, nursing, journalism, social work, and information science has extended our understanding of lack of anonymity. Significant research and analysis on lack of anonymity surrounds the emergence of the internet, social media, and technology. As concepts evolve and change over time, re-evaluating the concept using current literature will strengthen lack of anonymity as a concept within theoretical statement #3 of Rural Nursing Theory.

Concept Analysis Approach: Walker and Avant’s (2011) method is being used for analysis. The process will result in validating and re-defining attributes; development of model, borderline, related, and contrary cases; antecedents and consequences; and empirical referents. This work is intended to build on previous work and research on the concept.

Linking the Concept to Practice: In rural practice settings, lack of anonymity is an established issue for nurses and other professionals. Nurses in rural practice are visible and known to others in their communities. The literature supports the difficulty rural professionals have in delineating their professional role from their personal role. Further understanding the concept may lead to the development of strategies that prepare and retain nurses in rural practice.

Conclusions: Updating the concept of lack of anonymity will advance our understanding and add clarity to theoretical statement #3 in Rural Nursing Theory.

Bibliography: