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REFLECTIVE ANALYSIS ARTICLE

ANALYSIS OF THE CONCEPT “NURSING PROTOCOLS” FROM THE EVOLUTIONARY VISION OF RODGERS ANÁLISE DO CONCEITO “PROTOCOLOS DE ENFERMAGEM” A PARTIR DA VISÃO EVOLUCIONÁRIA DE RODGERS ANÁLISIS DEL CONCEPTO “PROTOCOLOS DE ENFERMERÍA” A PARTIR DE LA VISIÓN REVOLUCIONARIA DE RODGERS

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ABSTRACT

Objective: to develop a theoretical essay about the concept “nursing protocols” from the evolutionary vision of Rodgers. **Method:** theoretical essay guided by the questions << How the concept “nursing protocols” is employed in the scientific productions of nurses? What is the contextual basis, the substitute terms and related concepts as the concept “nursing protocols”, according to the evolutionary vision of Rodgers? >> **Results:** were developed considerations about the theoretical referential of the evolutionary method and conceptual analysis, aforementioned, of the concept “nursing protocols” in light of the evolutionary vision of Rodgers. **Conclusion:** it is expected to promote discussions about the use of the concept “nursing protocols”, as well as raise awareness among the nurses about the assistive, social, scientific and educational role, that these tools have. **Descriptors:** Nursing; Nursing Protocols; Concept Formation.

RESUMO

Objetivo: desenvolver um ensaio teórico acerca do conceito “protocolos de enfermagem” a partir da visão evolucionária de Rodgers. **Método:** ensaio teórico norteado pelas questões << Como o conceito “protocolos de enfermagem” é empregado nas produções científicas dos enfermeiros? Qual a base contextual, os termos substitutos e os conceitos relacionados com o conceito “protocolos de enfermagem”, segundo a visão evolucionária de Rodgers? >> **Resultados:** foram desenvolvidas considerações acerca do referencial teórico do método evolucionário e a análise conceitual, propriamente dita, do conceito “protocolos de enfermagem” à luz da visão evolucionária de Rodgers. **Conclusão:** espera-se promover discussões acerca do emprego do conceito “protocolos de enfermagem”, bem como sensibilizar os enfermeiros quanto ao papel assistencial, social, científico e educativo que essas ferramentas possuem. **Descritores:** Enfermagem; Protocolos de Enfermagem; Formação de Conceito.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: desarrollar un ensayo teórico sobre el concepto de “protocolos de enfermería” a partir de la visión de Rodgers. **Método:** ensayo teórico guiado por las preguntas >> ¿Como el concepto de “protocolos de enfermería” se emplea en las producciones científicas de los enfermeros? ¿Cuál es la base de concepto, los términos substitutos y los conceptos relacionados con el concepto “protocolos de enfermería” según la visión revolucionaria de Rodgers? >> **Resultados:** fueron desarrolladas las consideraciones acerca de las referencias teóricas del método revolucionario y análisis conceptual, propriamente dicha, del concepto “protocolos de enfermería” a la luz de la visión revolucionaria de Rodgers. **Conclusión:** se pretende promover una discusión acerca del uso del concepto “protocolos de enfermería”, así como crear conciencia entre los enfermeros sobre el papel de asistencia, social, científico y educativo que esas herramientas poseen. **Palabras Clave:** Enfermería; Protocolos de Enfermería; Formación de Concepto.

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INTRODUCTION

In the light of the Law of Professional Practice, number 7.498, of June 25th, 1986, the nurses are all individuals with graduate diploma in nursing, which are backed up legally and put into practice the activities of management, organization, planning, coordination, assessment of the care services, consulting, auditing, nursing consultation, nursing prescription, care for serious individuals and assisted in High Complexity.¹

It is evidenced that the activities of the nurse must be based on scientific and technical interconnection, making possible to circumvent obstacles in the work process and to promote transformations on his care and improvements in the quality of life of patients. By presenting these peculiarities, nowadays arise discussions about nursing as a science, that is, a knowledge that seeks to overcome problems, guided by a single paradigm that governs labor standards with the purpose of improving the correspondence between this and the nature.²

For a long time, Nursing accompanied the biomedical model, which is based on rationality and in the clinic.³ Nowadays, it is observed the rescue of the assumptions of Nightingale, from the impersonal approach; the subjective experience, individual and collective; and an attention focused on the mind, body and spirit, through the take care-cure transpersonal paradigm.⁴

It is from the *margin* that nursing becomes stronger and differentiates itself from reality, since on it "[...] things happen beyond what exists, and where movements for spaces in which we can create visions of other forms of being and pondering what it could mean to perform them".^{4:18}

Thus, to strengthen as a science, profession, social practice and improve the quality of life of the society, nursing uses tools such as research, public-private partnerships, social control, among others. The reality of association between the research and the practice is already experienced in the converging research assistance, which produce changes and innovations in care.⁵

It is in this scenario, of interconnection between practice and research, outstanding health care protocols - set to which the nursing protocol belongs-, instruments that guide the care and management of health spaces, with the purpose of guiding streams,

clinical procedures and behaviors, improving the rationality, the resources and increasing the likelihood of care quality results and the guarantee of professional autonomy,⁶⁻⁷ besides being supported legally by the Law No. 7.498.¹

Given these initial reflections, we present the following guiding questions: how the concept of "nursing protocols" is employed in scientific productions of nurses? Which is the contextual basis, the substitute terms and concepts related to the concept of "nursing protocols," according to the evolutionary vision of Rodgers?

To continue the reflections and answer the questions, it aims to develop a theoretical essay, understood as reflective exposure and high level of interpretation regarding certain themes,⁸ on the conceptual analysis of the term "nursing protocols" in evolutionary vision of Rodgers.

♦ Evolutionary method according to Rodgers: theoretical referential

The researcher Beth I. Rodgers is a nurse, a professor at the Nursing School at the University of Wisconsin-Wilwaukee. During her graduation, in 1980, showed great interest in studying the essence of nursing and the barriers to her solidified knowledge.⁹

From the philosophical analysis, it was noted that many of these barriers are related to her conceptual approaches, which lured her to seek reliable means to solve them. Thus, the conceptual analysis has been an important tool to address these gaps.⁹

Given this, the evolutionary method of conceptual analysis appears, characterized by take into consideration the aspects and the contextual dependence as influencers of the concept,⁹ i.e. of abstract value which deals with a phenomenon.¹⁰ It is believed that the development of the concept is continuous and cyclical and pervades the time and the interior of several private contexts. Therefore, there is the potential to characterize adequately certain phenomena and solve problems.⁹ Figure 1 symbolizes the concept development process (Figure 1).

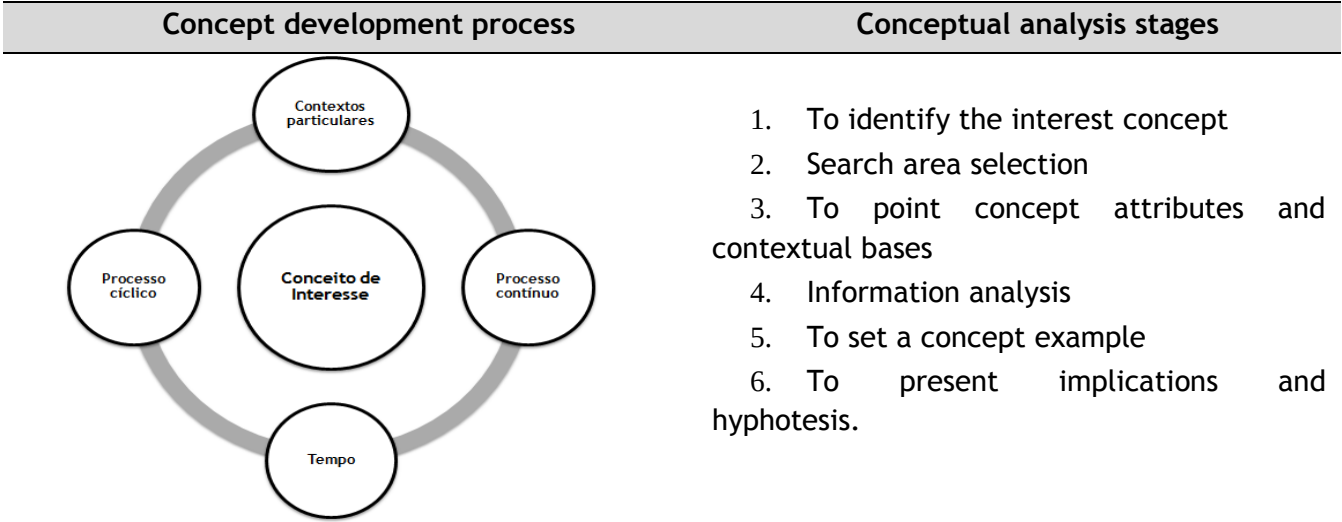


Figure 1. Process of the concept development and stages of conceptual analysis according to the evolutionary vision of Rodgers, 2012.

The method consists of six steps, namely: 1) to identify the concept of interest and associated expressions; 2) to select a field for data collection; 3) to point out the relevant data about the attributes of the concept, the contextual bases (influenced by education, the interdisciplinary, the sociocultural and temporal); 4) to analyze the information about the characteristics of the concept; 5) to identify, if necessary, an example of concept; and 6) to define the implications and hypotheses for the development of the concept (Figure 1).⁹

In this perspective, as an interest concept, it was elected "nursing protocols". The field of survey occurred in the Theses Database of the CAPES, in August 2012, from the use of the subject "nursing protocols", following some criteria inclusion-productions scientific available electronically in full, in the bank, which reflect the theme, focusing on nursing protocols - and exclusion - inconsistent theme with the work proposed. Thus, four master dissertations and three doctoral theses were obtained. Rodgers stresses the need to select 20% of findings, randomly.⁹ However, by the sample size, it was decided to examine all seven productions.

The choice of theme was for the importance of nursing protocols as tools of empowerment and transformation of nurses' practice, especially in the present day of strengthening of nursing as a science.

To identify the contextual basis, the substitutes terms, the related concepts, the contextual basis (antecedents and consequent), the following questions were used, as directed by the method: how the authors conceptualize nursing protocols? What are the main features proposed by the authors about the nursing protocols? Which events have contributed to the emergence of nursing protocol? What are the consequences arising with the application of nursing protocol?

◆ **Conceptual analysis in the light of evolutionary vision of Rodgers: conceptualizing "Nursing Protocols"**

The seven scientific productions were analyzed, inductively about: attributes/concept; conceptual base, formed by antecedents and consequential; of the substitutes terms ; and the related concepts.

◆ **Attributes/ concept: how the authors conceptualize the "nursing protocols"? What are the main features pointed by the authors about the "nursing protocols"?**

The attributes are regarded as the real definition and expressions or words used frequently by the authors to define the phenomena.⁹

Thus, as attributes of the concept "nursing protocols " were identified: instruments which have goals;¹¹ resources that guide the nurse;⁽¹²⁾ user education instrument; discrimination, minutely, of the guidelines for nursing;¹² standardization of care; the upgrade tools;¹³ systematic recommendations for the management of health problems;¹³⁻⁴ technological tool;¹⁵ element that enables baseline health standards; and scientific structure for care coordination.¹⁴

It is valid to point out that the authors emphasize that the application of nursing protocol is feasible, it requires previous training and professional skill for the development of clear reasoning, combining competence and quality.^{14,16}

So, it is observed a line between the attributes found, since all converge, generally, to the idea that the nursing protocol aims to systematize, standardize and guide the care, strengthening the scientific structure of nursing, from the support of scientific evidence.⁶

◆ Records - Which events have contributed to the emergence of "nursing protocols"?

The records correspond to situations, events or phenomena that predated the concept of interest. From the identification of this element, it is possible to understand the context interference in the definition of the concept.⁹

In this perspective, the authors reveal that the records were related to the need for effectiveness in the early detection of problems;¹¹ the improvement in the quality of assistance;¹² the standardization of the information; promoting patient safety;¹²⁻³ the prevention of complications;¹³ the systematization of care, through informatics;¹⁴⁻⁵ to improve the assessment, ensuring the planning and execution of nurse care;¹⁶ to guide decision-making;¹⁴ and the need to readjust the national and international protocols.¹⁷

It can infer that all records were related to the difficulties during the process of the nurse work and the presence of "nursing protocols" would overcome them. Another important aspect concerns the ethical values ingrained in these records, once the Ethics of Nursing Code, in its theoretical, stresses, among other topics, nursing's commitment to the health and quality of life of the person, of the individual and the community.¹⁸

◆ Consequent - What are the consequences arising from the implementation of the "nursing protocols"?

The definition of the consequent takes to the results arising from the application of the investigated phenomenon,⁹ in this study, of "nursing protocols".

So, the main consequences, after the application of nursing protocols, were the positive impact on patients recovery;^{11,14,17} improving the quality of life; the modification of behaviors; the reduction of risk factors; the provision of evidence for the transformation of the healthcare practice of nurses;¹¹ and the improvement in the quality of nursing care.^{12,15,17}

Added to that, the incorporation of nursing protocols meant that the professionals had the opportunity to: be parameters for the application of nursing protocols in other healthcare institutions;¹² to reflect on their practice of care; to systematize the assistance; to guide the work process; to have the possibility of acquiring new knowledge; to improve their evaluation process;¹³ to obtain greater visibility; to decrease the gaps in research/theory, research/practice,

research/education and research/service relations; to improve communication; to strengthen nursing as a science;¹⁵ to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the care;¹⁴⁻⁵ to achieve ease in understanding some clinical changes;¹⁴ and to obtain greater safety for the patient.¹⁷

Thus, the approach of nurses with the protocols brings various social assistance benefits to the health of patients enabling the strengthening of nursing, its greater scientific visibility and technical and teamwork.

◆ Substitute terms

For substitute terms, it comprises the use of different words or phrases in the body text.⁹

Some of the words and expressions used to replace the concept "nursing protocols" were: instruments;¹¹⁻⁴ query strategies; assistive protocols;¹² care protocols;¹³ technological tool; daily protocol; prevention protocol;¹⁵ clinical assistant; technology of care; technical-scientific basis;¹⁴ assistance model;¹² among others.

The inductive analysis of seven scientific productions demonstrated the use of several substitutes terms, which are related to the work context, the protocol objective, the records etc. These aspects can produce barriers, since there is not an actual standardization of concept and reflect, therefore, the ignorance of the nurses about the importance of the protocols for the working process of nursing.

When it reflects about the surveys, in particular, the bibliographic, this diversity of substitute terms are responsible for methodological bias and obstacles to deepening scientific.

◆ Related concepts

The concept of interest has a network of other concepts that, together, help in establishing the meaning. Added to this, they are based on philosophical assumptions.⁹

Based on this definition, the main concepts elucidated are cited, which are linked to the philosophical aspects of nursing consultation; the promotion, protection and recovery of health;¹¹ the Systematization of Nursing Care;^{12,14} the Theory of Self-care of Orem;¹² the care technologies;¹³⁻⁵ the scientific method in nursing; to the *Software*;¹⁵ care insurance;^{14,17} and the clinical priority.¹⁷

It can be seen that the association of the concept "nursing protocols" with Systematization of Nursing Care can be explained by the fact that this one constitute a method of work.¹⁹ The same happens with the technologies of care, defined as a set of knowledge applied that determine a specific

line of work, capable of generating reflections, conversions, implications in the work process of the nurse and greater agility in the execution.²⁰⁻²

Thus, the concept of interest suffers influences of several concepts that present semantic similarity, goals and central features.

FINAL REMARKS

The concept of "nursing protocols", every day, is inserting itself even more in professional practice of the nurse. This reality affects in the work process of this professional, but also on patient's satisfaction.

The conceptual analysis, from the perspective of evolutionary vision of Rodgers, allowed to understand that the diversity of the used terms have contextual and temporal influences. It is believed that this diversity is a reflection of the context, i.e. the moment of insertion of the health care protocols in professional practice of the nurse.

On this perspective, the work proposed a conceptual analysis of the term "nursing protocols", with the goal of identifying their characteristics and the understanding of the authors in their use.

It aims that the work can contribute to discussions in the scientific and health care about the proper use of the concept, the consistency between the association and the real purpose of the instruments in the practical context and, above all, to raise awareness in nurses about the assistive, social, scientific and educational role that health care protocols have.

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