



Research Grants

Abstract Form

In 250-350 words, define the research problem, state the significance of the research, and present the research methodology and plan for analysis. **DO NOT USE A SEPARATE SHEET.**

Although many men with chronic illness suffer from fecal incontinence [FI], little is known about their day to day experiences. The majority of research on FI has focused on women. There are no studies that have directly investigated men's experiences of FI. The aims of this phenomenological study are to understand the experience of men living with FI from their perspective and to elicit the men's self care and management strategies for FI. Ten men will participate in audio-taped, unstructured interviews. The audio-tapes will be transcribed into a written text for analysis. The text will be analyzed using Van Manen's approach for thematic reduction and re-representation of the lived experiences of men experiencing FI. The analysis will display findings of the men's experiences of lived time, lived space, lived relationships and lived body that Van Manen interprets as Merleau Ponty's lifeworld existentials of experience. The lifeworld existentials represent overlapping domains of a life experience. Themes representing the essence of the men's experience will then be analyzed from the lifeworld existential analysis and be re-represented in the findings. Given the gap in knowledge on men with incontinence, the proposed study will provide an understanding of men's experience of FI that can guide rehabilitation nurses and other health care professionals in providing high-quality and gender-sensitive care. The findings from this qualitative investigation will go far to enhancing understanding of men's experiences with FI and expectations for its management.