

Research Issues Violet M. Malinski, Contributing Editor

Nursing Research and Nursing Conceptual Models: Betty Neuman's Systems Model

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Scholars actively engaged in research within the framework of Neuman's systems model have collaborated in the development of The Institute for the Study of the Neuman Systems Model. Gigliotti presents a comprehensive review of the genesis, progress, and future plans of this group. As Gigliotti indicates, the proposal to establish this group was first approved by the Neuman Systems Model Trustees Group, established in 1988 by Neuman "to preserve, protect, and perpetuate the integrity of the model for the future of nursing" (Neuman, 2002, p. 360). The trustees group and the institute offer a highly structured model by which Neuman nurses can continue developing and testing the model.

Reference

Neuman, B. (2002). Appendix D: The Neuman Systems Model Trustees Group, Inc. In B. Neuman & J. Fawcett (Eds.), *The Neuman systems model* (4th ed., pp. 360-363). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

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The Neuman Systems Model Institute: Testing Middle-Range Theories

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The credibility of the Neuman systems model can only be established through the generation and testing of Neuman systems model-derived middle-range theories. However, due to the number and complexity of Neuman systems model concepts/concept interrelations and the diversity of middle-range theory concepts linked to these Neuman systems model concepts by researchers, no explicit middle-range theories have yet been derived from the Neuman systems model. This article describes the development of an organized program for the systematic study of the Neuman systems model. Preliminary work, already accomplished, is detailed, and a tentative plan for the completion of further preliminary work as well as beginning the actual research conduction phase is proposed.

The Neuman systems model (NSM) is an abstract framework and, like all nursing conceptual models, its credibility

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cannot be established directly (Fawcett, 2000). Thus, the goal of those interested in testing the credibility of the NSM is the generation and testing of NSM-derived middle-range theories. Toward this goal, much work has been done to identify what is currently known about the NSM concepts, their linkages with middle-range theory concepts, and the research instruments used to measure these middle-range theory concepts (Fawcett & Giangrande, 2001, 2002; Gigliotti, 1997, 2001; Gigliotti & Fawcett, 2002). However, to date,

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