

## Providing the Framework for Clinical Inquiry and Innovation, *continued*

### Nursing Research

With support from the Magnet Department and the Clinical Inquiry Council, during 2023 and 2024, three nursing research studies were implemented or completed. Below is a summary of these studies and their status, as well as publications associated with them.

#### Effect of Accountability Grid Implementation on Nurses’ Perceptions of Professional Governance

**Principal Investigator:** Kirsten Wisner, PhD, RN, RNC-OB, CNS, C-EFM, NE-BC  
**Co-Investigators:** Aubree Collins, BSN, RN, RNC-OB, C-EFM; Megan Lopez, MSN, RN, CNL, VA-BC; and Becky Rodriguez, MSN, RN, CEN, CPHQ  
**Status:** Study initiated in January 2023. Currently open.

The purpose of this study is to assess the impact of the implementation of clinical nurse and nurse leader accountability grids on nurses’ perceptions of professional governance. The study hypothesis is that the implementation of accountability grids will provide a framework for decisional authority, providing structural and operational support to the professional governance structure that will result in an increase in Verran Professional Governance Scale© (VPGS)

scores over time. The VPGS is a relatively new instrument developed to measure professional governance. A secondary aim of the study is to evaluate the test-retest reliability of the VPGS. Pre-intervention data were collected from January to April 2023. The intervention was implemented from mid-2023 through 2024, and post-intervention data collection is planned to begin in Q3 2025. A manuscript describing the development and implementation of the intervention was published in the *Journal of Nursing Administration*.

Wisner, K., Collins, A., & Porter-O’Grady, T. (2024). A road map for the development of a decisional authority framework for professional governance using accountability grids. *JONA: The Journal of Nursing Administration*, 54(2), 79-85.

### Test-Retest Reliability of the Verran Professional Governance Scale©

**Principal Investigator:** Kirsten Wisner, PhD, RN, RNC-OB, CNS, C-EFM, NE-BC

**Co-Investigator:** Steven Kim, PhD

This was the secondary aim of the parent study, Effect of Accountability Grid Implementation on Nurses' Perceptions of Professional Governance. Stability testing, conducted using a test-retest protocol, measures an instrument's reliability by evaluating the consistency of participant responses to survey questions with repeated testing within a short interval. No studies have measured the stability of the VPGS. The purpose of this analysis was to evaluate the test-retest reliability of the VPGS. A test-

retest protocol was administered to participants who took the VPGS survey and agreed to be contacted two weeks later to retake it. Participant responses for the first and second surveys were matched, and item-level and subscale comparisons were made between participants' initial and retest responses using intraclass correlation coefficients (ICCs) applying a two-way random-effects model. The VPGS subscales had ICC scores of 0.71 for decision-making, 0.73 for collateral relationships, and 0.86 for professional

obligation. Findings suggest that the VPGS demonstrates test-retest reliability. Future research should evaluate the instrument's responsiveness.

The findings from this analysis were published in the *Journal of Nursing Measurement*.

Wisner, K., Kim, S., Meek, P. M., Tarasenko, L. M., Weston, M. J., & Porter-O'Grady, T. (2024). Test-retest reliability of the Verran Professional Governance Scale©. *Journal of Nursing Measurement*. June 4, 2024, online ahead of print.

### Healthcare Providers' Perspectives and Practices Regarding Bereavement Support

**Principal Investigators:** Alyssa Erikson, PhD, MSN, RN, CNE; Jennifer McAdam, PhD, RN;

Jeneva Gualarte-Rinaldo, PhD, RN; and Steven Kim, PhD

**Salinas Valley Health Medical Center Site Investigators:** Celina Medina, MSN, RN, APRN, FNP-BC and Laurie Freed Edelman, BSN, RN, CCRN-CSC

**Status:** Study Initiated in June 2022; Closed June 2023

This mixed-methods study was a collaboration between researchers at California State University, Monterey Bay, Samuel Merritt University, and Salinas Valley Health Medical Center. A researcher-developed survey and interviews were used to explore how registered nurses, physicians, social workers, respiratory therapists and unlicensed assistive personnel in the critical care and emergency departments view and provide bereavement support.

Among 123 healthcare providers who completed the survey, 67.5% were RNs. While most (64.2%) supported families at the time of death, few (6.5%) followed up with families. Formal training on providing bereavement support was desired by 54%. The main barriers noted to providing bereavement support included lack of training, time and resources. Having a better understanding of bereavement support and who provides this type of support may help healthcare

professionals improve and extend the care they provide for grieving families.

The quantitative results of this study were reported in *American Journal of Critical Care*.

McAdam, J., Gualarte-Rinaldo, J., Erikson, A. & Kim, S. (2025). Describing and comparing healthcare professionals' views and practices regarding bereavement support. *American Journal of Critical Care*.