

## Chapter 2

### **Statement of Intent**

The intent of this chapter is to offer a guide to a disciplined approach for the study of nursing theory. A set of questions is provided intended to facilitate reflection and exploration leading to a selection of a nursing theory for use in practice.

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### **Key Terms**

Studying nursing theory

Guiding questions

Scope of nursing

Theory analysis and evaluation

Theory-based practice

Analysis and evaluation

Values and beliefs

Preparation, judgment, and justification

Boundaries

Nursing situation

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### **Objectives**

On completion of this chapter, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the importance of guiding questions for the study of nursing theory.
2. Identify and discuss four specific issues important to nurses who consider the study of nursing theory.

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### **Outline**

#### **Study of Theory for Nursing Practice**

Importance of Guiding Questions

#### **Guide for the Study of Nursing Theory in Practice**

How is nursing conceptualized?

Is the focus stated?

What is the purpose of nursing?

What are the boundaries of nursing?

How can nursing situations be described?

What is the context of the theory development?

Who is the nurse theorist as person and as a nurse?

What are major theoretical influences on this theory?

What were major external influences on development of the theory?

Who are authoritative sources for information about development, evaluation and use of this theory?

Who are the nursing authorities who speak about, write about, and use the theory?

What major resources are authoritative sources on the theory?

How can the overall significance of the nursing theory be described?

What is the importance of the nursing theory over time?

What is the experience of nurses who report consistent use of the theory?

What are projected influences of the theory on nursing's future?

**Summary**

**References**

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### **Questions for Classroom Discussion**

1. Who controls the practice of nursing? How is your personal practice controlled day-to-day?

Think of an exemplar in which you felt strongly in control of your practice. Write it down and reflect on the image portrayed in your narrative. How might nursing theory influence your practice of nursing?

2. As a discipline, what knowledge and/or technology would you like to see nursing claim?

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### Multiple-Choice Questions

*(Answers appear in bold)*

1. The guide for the selection of nursing theory presented in your text is a set of questions that facilitate reflection and exploration in the study of nursing theory that can lead to the selection of a nursing theory for use in your practice.

**A. True**

B. False

2. One criterion for hospitals seeking magnet hospital status is selection of a theoretical model for nursing practice.

**A. True**

B. False

3. It is not necessary or desirable for the study and use of nursing theory to have roots in the everyday practice of nursing.

A. True

**B. False**

4. The scope of nursing practice is:

A. Known and static

**B. Continually being expanded**

C. Determined only by individual researchers

D. Important only to nurses with advanced degrees

5. The question “What does the nurse attend to when practicing nursing?” relates to which of the following areas of the theory guide?

**A. How nursing is conceptualized**

B. The context of theory development

C. Authoritative sources

D. Overall theory significance

6. Nursing theorists and nurses in practice:

A. Are interested in related but different phenomena.

B. Do not see nursing in the same context.

**C. Think and work with the same phenomena.**

D. Require the same knowledge and skills.

7. Key ways to study nursing include analysis and evaluation.

**A. True**

B. False

8. The study of nursing theory:

A. Is a simple, short-term endeavor.

B. Can be easily undertaken.

**C. Requires a continuing commitment.**



D. Is not essential for expert nursing practice.

9. The question “What nursing societies share and support work of the theory?” relates to which of the following areas of the theory guide?

A. How nursing is conceptualized

B. The context of theory development

**C. Authoritative sources**

D. Overall theory significance

10. The question “Is the theory used to guide programs of nursing education?” relates to which of the following areas of the theory guide?

A. How nursing is conceptualized

B. The context of theory development

C. Authoritative sources

**D. Overall theory significance**