TITLE: EXPANDING THE TYPOLOGY OF LIFE TRANSITIONS IN WOMEN USING A CLINICAL DATA-BASED APPROACH

FUNDED BY: American Nurses Foundation  (09/01/2012 – 08/31/2013)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: 
Katherine Kaiser, PhD, PHCNS, BC  
Associate Professor, College of Nursing, University of Nebraska Medical Center

CO-INVESTIGATORS / CONSULTANTS: 
Julia McQuillan, PhD  
Associate Professor and Director of the Bureau of Sociological Research, University of Nebraska –Lincoln, Lincoln, NE  
Margaret Kaiser, PhD, RN  
Assistant Professor, College of Nursing, University of Nebraska Medical Center

ABSTRACT 
Transition is a concept central to nursing practice, research and education. Meleis’ middle range transition theory maintains that developing transition-specific “nursing therapeutics” is a critical part of nursing. Transitions affect physical, mental, environmental and social health outcomes. The purpose of this proposed study is to validate the current typology of life transitions for pre-menopausal women and determine if there are additional types, or sub-types of life transitions.

The proposed study will use an existing clinical nursing data set (1999-2011) of community-dwelling women receiving public and community health nursing (P/CHN) care to validate, amplify and potentially expand this classification or typology. These data are unique for studying transition as they represent an extensive time period that could potentially capture transition data in the context of significant historical social change (i.e. economic downturn).

The research approach is a retrospective qualitative method of content analysis design using existing nursing clinical data collected from 1999-2011. One of the methods of content analysis planned to accomplish the aims of the study is a deductive directed method that uses a theory-based category formation. Additionally, an inductive “data mining” content analysis approach will also be used to determine patterns, themes and inferred categories within the data that are different from the existing typology.

The setting from which these data were originally collected is an education-service enterprise between a college of nursing and the primary care services associated with an academic health sciences center. The sample for the proposed study was drawn from a data set of over 2000 clinical nursing records with clinical assessments that were completed from 1999-2011. The instrument used to collect the original data is the Community Health Intensity Rating Scale (CHIRS). The CHIRS is a quantitative tool that provides a holistic index of client need for care or intensity, and has been used in community-based research. The CHIRS is also used as a comprehensive nursing assessment tool.

The unit of analysis for the content analysis is women’s CHIRS who perceive that they are experiencing a life transition. These data were collected during the admission period of the care provided. A directed deductive content analysis approach uses theory a priori to guide the analyses around the theoretical concepts. To determine if there are other types, sub-types or new patterns and themes, we will review the CHIRS data a second time and inductively analyze the data for new transitions.
This study of transition in premenopausal women will assist researchers and practitioners to develop better specified transition-related preventive (e.g. health enhancement; primary and secondary prevention) and therapeutic (e.g. health-seeking, self-management) nursing interventions for premenopausal women prior to the older adults years.