

## Rehabilitation Nursing Foundation

### 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.**

A premature birth is often an unexpected event forcing parents to immediately make life altering decisions that will affect not only themselves, but entire families. Parents are often ill-prepared to face the foreign environment of the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). When the infant experiences a complication such as an intraventricular hemorrhage (IVH), the situation becomes even more complex. These infants often require elaborate medical support and ongoing rehabilitation once discharged from the NICU. Neonatal staff members frequently express concerns that families do not really understand the complexity of the situation. Therefore, the purpose of this grounded theory research study is to explore maternal expectations and needs following the diagnosis of IVH in their premature infants. Grounded theory is an interpretative research method that focuses on understanding the meaning of phenomena as they are perceived and experienced by study participants. Open-ended, loosely structured interview questions will allow for the discovery of how the mothers perceive the phenomena of IVH without imposing the researcher's ideas. Data will be analyzed using dimensional analysis, a comparative analytic strategy, designed specifically for use with narrative texts in grounded theory studies. The findings will guide the development of a substantive theory that will assist rehabilitation nurses to understand the expectations and needs of mothers and infants living with the disabilities that follow premature birth and intraventricular hemorrhage. This understanding can facilitate communication between mothers and nurses so that family-centered treatment plans can be developed to address the infant's rehabilitation needs, as well as, to improve the quality of life for the entire family.