

# **The Ethics Review Process in Multisite Research: A Survey Study About Work Intensification and Occupational Well-being among Emergency Department Nurses**

Nancy Connor, MN, RN, ENC  
PhD student (4<sup>th</sup> year), Queen's University  
Study Implementation May 2022

## **Abstract**

**Background:** My doctoral research will provide an advanced understanding of Emergency Department (ED) nurses' well-being and their level of personal psychological strengths to be successful in their work environment. Healthcare organizations are under a great deal of strain to increase productivity and efficiency of services to meet the rising public demand for emergency care in Canada. This continuous drive for system performance improvement has triggered an intensification of work to the detriment of healthcare professionals' well-being. ED nurses prolonged exposure to work intensification places them at higher risk for poor occupational well-being. My sample will be multiple EDs in Nova Scotia, which has required three ethical approvals from separate Research Ethics Boards (REB). While the structure of these ethics applications are similar, each REB review process is unique. Different requirements and additional assessments set by individual REBs, ensure research is aligned with organizational standards and provincial law e.g., Personal Health Information Act (PHIA). Conducting multisite research requires diligence in monitoring your application journey to minimize human errors and study delays. **Purpose:** The aim of this presentation will highlight my learning as a doctoral student of the REB considerations and processes when conducting research with multiple institutions. **Methodology and Methods:** My doctoral study is using a predictive, cross-sectional survey design. A minimal sample of 85 Registered Nurses (RN) employed at the two tertiary care and eight regional EDs throughout Nova Scotia will be recruited to participate. Data collection includes use of one anonymized, online survey for nurses' self-reported measurements of work intensification, work engagement, burnout, unfinished nursing care and psychological capital. Over an eight-month period, two delegated ethics reviews and an administrative review have been conducted. **Conclusion:** The REB process for multisite research can be a lengthy venture that needs to be considered when planning for the study duration.