

## ABSTRACT

### THE PHENOMENON OF ELECTIVE INDUCTION OF LABOR: LABOR AND DELIVERY NURSES' ETHICAL PERCEPTIONS

The purpose of this study was to add to the body of nursing knowledge regarding the practice of elective induction of labor from nurses' perspectives with emphasis upon any ethical dilemmas that were identified. Literature reviewed included induction of labor, misoprostol as inductive agent, ethical dilemmas in nursing, and legal considerations. The Complexity Integration Nursing Theory provided the theoretical base for this study. A phenomenological approach utilizing qualitative research methodology was used. Demographic data were collected from six interviewees and a Guide to Dialogue directed the research questions. Analysis of the data revealed an overall feeling of helplessness and hopelessness with resulting low job satisfaction. Further research is recommended to compare the results of this study with data gathered from hospitals of different sizes and styles.

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