

## ABSTRACT

### COMMUNICATION OF CRITICAL PATIENT DATA IN A RURAL PRIMARY CARE SETTING

Critical patient data are values that represent pathophysiological states at such variance from normal as to be life-threatening. A delay in reporting critical patient data can negatively impact patients, providers, and the health care system. The purpose of this project is to develop and implement a communication pathway for reporting critical patient data in a rural primary care setting. The university's Institutional Review Board (IRB) determined that this project is not research involving human subjects as defined by 45 CFR 46.102(e). The project facilitator conducted an integrated literature review to identify best practices related to the communication of critical patient data. Findings were organized by the social ecological level and used to develop a communication pathway for reporting critical patient data in a rural primary care setting. Stakeholders included staff working in a rural primary care clinic in southwest Colorado. Implementation activities were guided by Meleis's transition theory and included the development of an inventory tool to assess current clinic practices related to critical patient data reporting, modification of the inventory tool to accommodate the uniqueness of this clinic, and prioritization of action items for implementation. By the end of the ten-week project, a communication pathway for communicating critical patient data was developed and

partially implemented. Facilitators and inhibitors to implementation were noted.

Recommendations for future projects are outlined and implications for nursing are discussed.

*Keywords:* critical patient data, communication, development, implement, reporting.

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## LETTER FROM SPONSORED PROGRAMS IRB



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1100 North Avenue • Grand Junction, CO 81501-3122  
970.248.1424 (o) • 970.248.1812 (f) • 1.800.982.6372

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**INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)**  
CMU Federawide Assurance Number: 00024298

TO: Whitney Mick

FROM: Dr. Cheryl K. Green *CKG*  
Director of Sponsored Programs; Research Integrity Officer

SUBJECT: IRB Determination of Human Subject Research

DATE: March 4, 2021

STUDY: **Protocol 21-34: Reporting Critical Lab Values in a Rural Primary Care Setting: A Quality Improvement Project**

The Colorado Mesa University Institutional Review Board (IRB) also known as the Human Subjects Committee has reviewed your request for determination of human subject research and based on your answers, your project is deemed to not be research involving human subjects as defined by 45 CFR 46.102(e).

No further IRB review is necessary unless modifications to your project meets the definition of research involving human subjects as defined by federal regulations. Should you wish to conduct this type of research on this project in the future, then please submit an applicable IRB protocol application (i.e., Exempt, Expedited/Full) for IRB review and approval.

**IRB Number: 21-34.** This number is your protocol number and should be used on all correspondence with the IRB regarding this study.

**Determination Date: March 4, 2021**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [irb@coloradomesa.edu](mailto:irb@coloradomesa.edu).

Best wishes on your project.

This manuscript is dedicated to my family and Charlie.

I did all of this for us!

NURSE ON!

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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