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Documentation of nursing activity's in the operating room
- Which influence does the context and underlying mechanism have on the outcome of the documentation in the operating room?
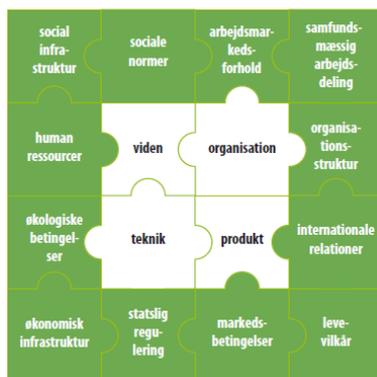
The overall demand for efficiency in health care has led perioperative nurses to seek for ways to justify and verify their contribution to the care of the surgical patient. The need to achieve the right outcome with an acceptable amount of cost has forced perioperative nurses to focus on documentations of nursing activities in the operating room (OR).

The first part of my project is an ethnographic inspired baseline study. The aim of the baseline study is to investigate the context and the underlying mechanism for documentation of perioperative nursing activities in the OR. In order to generate data I have used participant observation at two different hospitals in Denmark for a period of two month at each hospital.
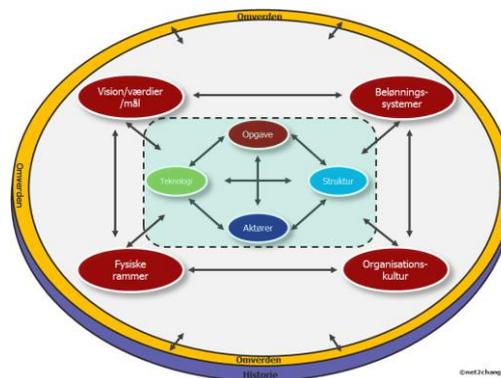
The preliminary results indicate that the underlying mechanisms are represented in espoused values and assumptions which all have time as framework factor. Perioperative nurses are using time as an overall explanation for their practice of documentation regardless of, whether it is a question of making the documentation or a question of choosing not to document. I also found that documentation of nursing activities often are caught in the middle of a dilemma between taking care of the patient and the amount of different instrumental and technical procedures. Finally the nurses' qualifications and competences to use and understand the EHR is an important issue for their practice of documentation.

Question:

I would like to discuss my preliminary results in relation to the Technology Model, which can be used to understand the interaction between a particular technology and the context were the technology has played its role. The Technology Model has the basic elements: knowledge, organization culture, product and technic. The model is inspired of H. J. Leavitt's Model of change.

Figur 1 The Technology Model

Figur 2 Leavitts Model of change