

## **Abstract**

In this project whose title is "Spiritual care – characterized by tacit knowledge", we test the allegation: The spiritual care that nurses in bedwards in hospital provide is characterized by lack of documentation and little is being spoken of the spiritual dimension of nursing. An explanation could be that spiritual care is characterized by tacit knowledge.

The aim of the project is to get a more comprehensive understanding whether spiritual care is characterized by tacit knowledge. Furthermore to get a more comprehensive understanding of what knowledge of spiritual care the nurses practice is based upon, how the nurses identify spiritual needs and why so little is being spoken and documented when spiritual care is being provided.

We approach the subject with a phenomenological and hermeneutical theory of science. Inspired by Emil Kruuse and Steinar Kvale we made semistructured interviews with three nurses and analysed it according to Kari Martinsen's theory of knowledge, ethical claim, manifestations of life and documentation, and Steen Wackerhausen's theory of knowledge, tacit knowledge, system- and lifeworld.

With reservation the conclusion is that in some cases the spiritual care seems to be tacit among the nurses.

Keywords: spiritual care, tacit knowledge