

# Binding communication to improve peripheral venous catheter monitoring

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## 26 ABSTRACT

27 **Background:** Optimizing the monitoring of peripheral venous catheters is essential. We  
28 developed a nursing record system at bedside (Patient Smart Reader®) to track peripheral  
29 venous catheters acts.

30 **Aims:** Improve peripheral venous catheter monitoring. To improve the quality of monitoring,  
31 we aimed to increase the usage rate of nursing record system at bedside.

32 **Methods:** We developed a "commitment intervention" course based on binding  
33 communication paradigm. Evaluation of its performance on monitoring was analyzed using a  
34 p-chart and time series analysis.

35 **Findings:** Nurses observed a significant improvement in compliance with catheter monitoring  
36 over time (shifts after shifts), ranging from 27.6% (CI = [25.3; 30.0]) of compliance before  
37 commitment intervention to 47.4% (CI = [45.0; 49.9]) after training. The commitment  
38 intervention increased the chances of carrying out monitoring through the tool for acts related  
39 to peripheral venous catheter by 2.42 (odds ratio) (CI = [1.88; 3.11]).

40 **Conclusion:** Binding communication provides an effective method for changing nurses'  
41 behaviors in terms of safe care. The determinants of engagement (individual vs. collective)  
42 can be indicators for defining future communication and training strategies in care centers for  
43 all Health care workers.

## 45 INTRODUCTION

46 The incidence of peripheral venous catheter (PVC)- related bloodstream infections was  
47 reported to be 0.1-0.5 /1000 catheter-days <sup>1 2</sup> . A prolonged dwell time and catheter insertion  
48 under emergency conditions increased the risk of PVC-related bloodstream infection.  
49 Approximately 200 million PVCs are inserted into adult patients each year in the United  
50 States <sup>3</sup>, and some suggest, based on the literature, that over 100,000 of these patients are  
51 infected with a crude and attributable mortality rates of 12.9% and 5.7% respectively <sup>4</sup> .

52 Other PVC-related adverse events are not negligible. In the CATHEVAL project <sup>5</sup>, the  
53 incidence of PVC-related adverse events was 21.9/100 catheter-days, with infections  
54 occurring 0.4/100. The most prevalent PVC-related adverse events are phlebitis (20.1/100),  
55 hematoma (17.7/100), and liquid/blood escape (13.1/100) <sup>5</sup>. The rate of phlebitis exceeds 50%  
56 by day 4. Replacing or removing peripheral intravenous catheters as clinically indicated rather  
57 than in a set time period of three to four days has recently been suggested <sup>6</sup> .

58 Consequently, reducing insertion of PVC and optimizing monitoring to remove such catheters  
59 as soon as possible has been shown in the literature to be a very successful way to reduce  
60 catheter-related bloodstream infection<sup>7 8</sup>. However, in routine practice, these guidelines lead  
61 to short-term changes only <sup>9</sup> or a not significant reduction<sup>10</sup>. One of the reasons for that not  
62 significant reduction is the inappropriate and not sustained monitoring of PVC use. To  
63 overcome the lack of monitoring, we developed a nursing record system at bedside using a  
64 bar code to trace nursing care named the Patient Smart Reader® (PSR®); it considerably  
65 improves monitoring compared to standards of care <sup>11</sup>. Consequently, PSR® was used to  
66 evaluate the performance of nurses to monitor PVC.

67 To improve the adherence of PSR® usage in PVC recording, we conducted an intervention  
68 based on binding communication. Binding communication paradigm is at the crossroads of

commitment theories and participatory communication. It is based on the principle that an individual adopts a behavior not because of his or her ideas but because of behaviors already realized and identifiable in regard to the expected behavior <sup>12</sup>. Work on commitment shows that knowledge has very little influence on our behaviors <sup>13</sup>. The individual's commitment in a behavior does not depends on his or her knowledge but on behaviors which already achieved and linked to the targeted behavior <sup>14</sup>. Targeted behavior is the result of a logical sequence of acts for the person who performing them. Actions are therefore linked by the coherence that the individual gives them: "Why I did not do that? I already did this!". The justification of the act is reinforced by the realization of precedent act, reducing cognitive dissonance. The cognitive dissonance is the internal state tension due to the contradictions on mind and beliefs. The human mind attempts naturally to reduce this contradiction. This succession of act reinforces individual's commitment, thus favoring the realization of other acts. It is also called "cascade of commitment": the more an individual realized voluntary acts, the more he is likely to do others acts. According to literature, these behaviors, called "commitment acts", must also be carried out under specific conditions: they must be easy to do, reiterated, linked and consistent to the final behavior, and carried out publicly in a context of total freedom without no rewards or punishments <sup>15-17</sup>.

This paradigm can be declined in framework and has already been mobilized to improve behavior regarding the protection of the environment <sup>18</sup>, to improve organ donation <sup>19</sup>, and to reduce high-risk behaviors related to HIV transmission <sup>20</sup>, alcoholism <sup>21</sup> or hospital hygiene and safety of care <sup>22,23</sup>. To our knowledge, this kind of framework was never applied to improve PVC monitoring or traceability of care. Our aim was to evaluate the impact of binding communication-based interventions on the compliance with PSR® usage on PVC recording.

## **METHOD**

94 To improve the adherence of PSR® usage on PVC recording, we have developed a specific  
95 intervention based on binding communication (commitment intervention) for nurses. Our  
96 intervention consisting of leading the nurses to perform a series of commitment acts related to  
97 the expected final behavior (using the PSR® for monitoring) comply with context's  
98 conditions describe in literacy. These commitment acts are intended to create a link between  
99 what is being done now, what should be done usually, and what will be done afterward. Each  
100 commitment acts respond to a specific commitment factor (Tab.1). For example, nurses were  
101 invited to participate in discussion (commitment act), animated by a trainer, on the interest in  
102 and issues related to the tool for monitoring (commitment factors: visibility, cost behavior,  
103 etc.). Everyone participated on a voluntary basis. The study was approved by our institutional  
104 ethical committee board N° 2016-018.

### 105 ***Binding Communication***

106 Commitment acts and their associated commitment factors correspond to binding  
107 communication guidelines which define conditions for engaging an individual on a behavior.  
108 Consequently, we created different acts that comply with the guideline. For example, a  
109 participation to a discussion is considerate like an action realized and allow responded to 4  
110 precepts: it is requesting a behavior cost (do effectively something), mark a visibility for other  
111 nurses, help to identifying the action level, reinforces the freedom context. These  
112 commitments were selected based on the work published by Burger J.M.<sup>24</sup> and Bernard F.  
113 and Joule R.V.<sup>25</sup>, and describe in Table 1.

### 114 ***Study design and set up***

115 The study was conducted from October 2018 to July 2019 in a medical ward specialized in  
116 infectious and tropical diseases of the Institute Mediterranean Infection (IHU) in Marseille,  
117 France. Essential information for the design of a study protocol was provided by our

experience in anthropology and innovative technologies<sup>26,27</sup>. We design a mixed-method, combining cross-sectional qualitative and quantitative analyses using a p-chart and interrupted time series in a mixed model.

We separated the study into three periods. The total duration of the study was 90 shifts (9 months). First 30 shifts (period *T*) basic training on standard PSR® usage procedure. This training was provided to all the nurses and each new nurse joining the ward in any time, but the research protocol provides for updating knowledge by involving all nurses in this initial training. By doing this, all nurses have the same knowledge on PSR® use. Then, we observed the nurses in their daily practice during at least 30 shifts to establish the baseline PVC monitoring compliance for each nurse. When the last nurse completed the 30 inclusion shifts needed by protocol, we asked all the nurses of the ward for their willing to participate in the study and to sign an informed consent form during a plenary meeting. This signature represented the first commitment act. Second 30 shifts (Period *T\**), at the beginning of this period we contacted the nurses one by one to establish an availability schedule. We offered them two dates that were convenient for everyone. We invited them to participate in a meeting (commitment intervention), stating again that they were free to accept or refuse. We then delivered the "commitment intervention" by group. The last 30 shifts (period *T\*\**) an observational period to check sustainability of the intervention. A summary protocol is available in the Grant diagram presented in Fig. 1. For reproducibility of the protocol, we created a training guide (Supplementary material) and trained a trainer (RI) to provide the training. The Investigators chose to be passive observers of the training.

### ***The commitment intervention***

The intervention is detailed in the "training guide" (Supplementary material). To include all participants, two interventions sessions were organized in the same week. In brief, after a short introduction to remind the nurses of their freedom to participate in debates and

discussions, they were invited to debate, first, the interest in the monitoring tool (PSR®) and, second, the problems encountered with it. The trainer made the nurses interact among themselves with the goal of activating commitment factors. The realization of commitment acts was achieved by inviting nurses during a round table to classify acts related to peripheral venous catheters from lowest risk to highest risk; to anonymously complete a bulletin summarizing the 3 main items of interest in carrying out monitoring with the PSR®; to comment in a focus group on the responses recorded in the bulletins and read by the trainer; and to listen to a specific sentence at the conclusion of the training, with the aim of attributing positive social labeling to the nurses before proposing that they sign a unique summary document containing the main issues from the bulletins (Table 1, Supplementary material (A)). This document was displayed in the nurse's office (for visibility of commitment). Finally, we proposed that they wear a badge indicating their commitment (Supplementary material (B)).

On the summary document and the badges, we wrote two sentences: "I take care of my patients, using my PSR®" and "the monitoring of everyone is safety for all". These two sentences account for three levels of action identification<sup>28</sup>. The action identification creates a link between what an individual knows and what he or she does. Thus, "I take care of my patient" responds to a basal level of action, the direct reason: "I do something because I believe on something". "Using my PSR®", is the lowest level. It corresponds to the irreducible physical gesture in terms of reason: "I do something like this". "The monitoring of everyone is security for all" corresponds to the highest level of identification so that the individual can be part of a global and social approach: "I do something because it must be do for this". This last point allows to an individual to join an idea socially agreed and social group where some values are shared.

## **Data gathering**

168 To observe the PVC act opportunities, we conducted a daily visit in the ward, it carried out by  
169 a PhD student (OF) who recorded when a PVC was inserted, inspected, or removed for each  
170 hospitalized patient as well as which nurse provided the act. PVC recording was established  
171 by our developed bedside nursing recording system (PSR®) which allows to record the PVC  
172 act (insertion, inspection, and removal) in real time and transmitted to it the database  
173 Meditrace®. PVC act opportunities were entered at posteriori in the same database.  
174 Compliance with PSR usage on PVC recording was established from data captured in the  
175 database and defined as the ratio; the PVC acts recorded by the PSR® divided by the PVC act  
176 opportunities.

## 177 **Statistical analysis**

178 We performed the post-intervention analysis on the two successive periods of 30 shifts per  
179 nurse after commitment intervention. The period  $T^*$  aimed to observe the impact produced  
180 directly at the end of the training and the achievement of a threshold effect. The period  $T^{**}$   
181 aimed to observe the sustainability of the training impact over time (Fig. 1).

182 The impact of the commitment intervention on nurse behavior regarding monitoring the  
183 catheter was assessed both as a whole for the nurses using a p-chart and as individual  
184 behavioral change using time series analysis. A p-chart is a type of control chart of attributes.  
185 Here, a p-chart was used to compare the compliance with PSR usage on PVC training before  
186 and after the commitment training for all nurses included in the study. The p-chart describes  
187 the temporal evolution of compliance (variables “shift” –  $T$ ,  $T^*$ ,  $T^{**}$ ) (p) and delimits two  
188 control limits. The p-chart was calibrated based on the 30 work shifts for each nurse before  
189 the intervention.

190 For time series analysis, we used a general additive mixed model <sup>29</sup> that takes into account a  
191 nonlinear effect of the number of work shifts and a nonlinear effect of the commitment



192 intervention. This model also considers a random effect of each nurse. The following mixed  
 193 model was computed with *R Studio Desktop AGPL v. 3*:

194

$$195 \quad \text{logit} \left( P(Y_{ij}=1 | b_i) \right) \equiv \log \left( \frac{P(Y_{ij}=1 | b_i)}{1 - P(Y_{ij}=1 | b_i)} \right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 T_{ij} + \beta_2 I_{ij} + \beta_3 T_{ij}^* + \beta_4 T_{ij}^{**} + b_i$$

$$196 \quad b_i \rightarrow N(0, \sigma)$$

197  $b_i$ : difference between HCW  $i$  and the general mean

198  $T=30$  shifts before the commitment intervention

199  $I_1$ =commitment intervention indicator

200  $T^*=30$  first shifts after commitment intervention ( $T-t_0$ , if  $T > t_0 \wedge T \leq t_0 + 30$ )

201  $T^{**}=30$  last shifts of the study ( $T-t_0-30$ , if  $T > t_0 + 30$ )

## 202 RESULTS

203 Of the 14 nurses who signed the consent form, 12 agreed to participate in commitment  
 204 intervention. 4,376 PVC acts opportunities were observed by direct observation (for  
 205 insertions, inspection, and removal), 1490 PVC acts were recorded by PSR®. The period  $T$   
 206 runs from October 2018 to January 2019. The period  $T^*$  runs from February 2019 to April  
 207 2019. The period  $T^{**}$  runs from May 2019 to July 2019.

208 **The p-chart** (Fig. 2) shows that the compliance with PSR usage on PVC recording increased  
 209 in the period  $T^*$  then kept sustainable in the period  $T^{**}$ , (shifts after shifts), it was going from  
 210 27.6% (CI = [25.3; 30.0]) in the pre-intervention period (period  $T$ ) to 47.4% (CI = [45.0;  
 211 49.9]) in the post-intervention period. The impact of the commitment intervention (Fig. 2) on  
 212 compliance was significant ( $p < 0.05$ ); it increased the usage rates of PSR® on PVC recording

213 (insertions, inspection, and removals), odds ratio (OR)= 2.42; CI = [1.88; 3.11]. Notably, the  
214 change in compliance began after the nurses signed the consent form.

### 215 *Interrupted Time Series: Mixed model.*

216 We selected 4 variables: period  $T$ : the number of shifts before the commitment intervention;  
217 period  $T^*$ : the number of shifts between the commitment intervention and the first thirty work  
218 shifts after the commitment intervention; the commitment intervention indicator ( $I$ ) it  
219 indicates whether for each act the nurse received the intervention or not; period  $T^{**}$ : the last  
220 thirty shifts of the study. The results after binomial logistic regression are summarized in  
221 Table 2. Each variable was treated independently.

222 In period  $T$ , each shift worked increased the rates of compliance with PSR usage by OR=1.03  
223 (CI [1.01; 1.04]), suggesting that there was a small learning effect due to the number of shifts  
224 completed (time). The odds ratio for the commitment intervention was 4.12 (CI [2.96; 5.73]),  
225 suggesting that intervention had a strong positive effect on variations in compliance. In period  
226  $T^*$  the odds ratio was 0.99 (CI [0.97; 1.00]), indicates a slowdown in compliance. In period  
227  $T^{**}$ , there was no longer any effect induced by time and learning (OR = 0.99; CI [0.97; 1.01])  
228 but effects were sustained.

229 We performed the same analysis by adding the type of shift (day/night) as a new variable to  
230 the model; there was no significant difference between the types of shift (day/night). The type  
231 of shift had no effect on compliance with PSR usage on PVC recording in our study. The  
232 small sample size of nurses include in the study has no influence on implication of findings.  
233 Indeed, the 12 nurses include in the study produced 4376 acts for PVC (insertion, monitoring,  
234 removal). Our analyzes are therefore based on this quantity of acts.

## 235 **DISCUSSION**

236 In our study, all actions were carried out to push the nurses to involve themselves in a cascade  
237 of commitment, to reach the expected final behavior and increase the usage rates of PSR® to  
238 track PVC acts. “The cascade of commitment” is a method that consists of making nurses  
239 realize a succession of acts, with the result being “the more acts they realized, the easier it will  
240 be for them to accept doing other acts”. This cascade of commitment led the nurses to  
241 reiterate their behavior, reducing the cognitive dissonance that occurs when a nurse holds  
242 contradictory beliefs, ideas, or values or participates in an action that goes against his or her  
243 beliefs, ideas, or values.

244 After commitment intervention, the PSR® usage on PVC recording increased from 27.6% (CI  
245 = [25.3; 30.0]) to 47.4% (CI = [45.0; 49.9]). To the best of our knowledge, there are only  
246 three comparable studies in the literature <sup>22,23,30</sup>. They also aimed to modify the behavior of  
247 healthcare personnel to improve care practices. Like us, they appealed to the paradigm of  
248 binding communication or psychosocial theories of engagement. Like these studies, we show  
249 that binding communication is a beneficial way to improve nursing quality. However, only  
250 one study assessed the effect of binding communication using an objective measure of  
251 behavior <sup>22</sup>.

252 Girandola’s study reported a small improvement from 10% to 13% in the rate of influenza  
253 vaccination coverage in nurses <sup>22</sup>. The other two studies provide an assessment using either  
254 direct observation or self-reported practices by participants. Quintard et al. assessed the  
255 evolution of representations (how an individual considered a situation, an action). By  
256 evaluating and comparing the scores of responses to a questionnaire on preventive gestures,  
257 they showed that an intervention, whether engaging or not, had a positive effect on self-  
258 reported practices for 61% of their participants. The engaging intervention appeared to  
259 produce a significantly stronger effect than the standard condition. The nurses who received  
260 standard training seemed to have a better awareness of the reality of the problem of

261 nosocomial infections <sup>23</sup>. Almeida et al. assessed the effect of binding communication on the  
262 wearing of the wedding ring in routine care. They concluded that wedding ring wearing  
263 decreased significantly at post-intervention (43% pre-intervention/19% post-intervention) <sup>30</sup>.  
264 However, this study was based on a self-audit report which was sent to the subjects receiving  
265 the intervention. This method leads to biases, notably social desirability. Moreover, for PVC  
266 recording, the use of PSR tool removed potential Hawthorne effect which is linked to an  
267 observer.

268 As a matter of facts, field observation was conducted in three ways: checking all patients after  
269 nurses' visit (and not checking the nurses' work); gathering data collected from nursing  
270 handover and nursing record); and PSR® database exploitation. Thus, there was no  
271 interaction between the investigator (anonymous observer) and the HCW.

272 Similar to the studies cited above, we tried to respect the theoretical foundations of binding  
273 communication <sup>24,25</sup>. Indeed, we were attentive to respect the framework of freedom of  
274 participation, the repetition of commitment acts having a behavioral "cost", and the  
275 publicisation (diffusion outside of nurses group) and visibility of the acts (for other: HCW of  
276 ward and patients hospitalized).

277 Our study differed in the operationalisation of acts and the driven context. To ensure the  
278 repeatability and reproducibility of our study, the binding intervention was conducted by a  
279 professional care instructor (RI). This singularity is found in the study of Quintard et al. <sup>23</sup>.  
280 She was instructed not to infer information on monitoring in discussions between nurses. In  
281 this way, we intended to stimulate reflection by the nurses on the themes predefined in  
282 advance (interest in monitoring of care and the problems encountered in its application). Thus,  
283 we emphasize the expert knowledge of nurses and let them talk about the problems in  
284 compliance with monitoring that they daily encounter. This was accomplished by emulating

285 collective thinking; that is, pooling knowledge and individual practices without attempting to  
286 persuade.

287 Like Quintard et al. and Girandola <sup>22,23</sup>, we used a focus group to engage the HCWs in  
288 behavior, but instead of inviting the HCWs to fill out a questionnaire (knowledge evaluation),  
289 we invited them to bring out their experiential knowledge through discussion, debate and  
290 completion of a summary bulletin. We also chose a different method of publicisation. In  
291 practice, in the studies of Girandola <sup>22</sup> and Almeida <sup>30</sup>, a chart of commitment was signed. In  
292 contrast to our study, such charts were not created with information provided by the  
293 healthcare workers during the intervention. In those studies, and in ours, the charts were  
294 displayed under the same conditions: in front of the social group in a common place. We  
295 chose a last individual brand through a pin badge offered at the end of the training. It had a  
296 double interest: to make visible the participation and the commitment made and to serve as a  
297 reminder of the individual's commitment.

298 We question ourselves on the performance of improvements obtained after the end of study. It  
299 will be interesting to look at the long-term effects of the study, to know if the effects of the  
300 training were kept or if “booster shots” are necessary to maintain effects and/ or increase them  
301 again. In period T\*\*, no significant improvement neither decreased PSR usage was observed  
302 all alone, suggests that at least for this period the effect of binding communication was  
303 sustained. In our study, binding communication clearly helped to improve the quality of PVC  
304 monitoring. The impact on the reduction in bloodstream infection now needs to be evaluated.

305

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