

# **The Impact of Negligence Claims Among Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists**

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# Introduction of Presenters and Project Interest

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# Objectives

1. Describe the second victim phenomenon.
2. Explore the impact of negligence claims on the personal and professional lives of CRNAs involved in negligence claims.
3. Identify common themes experienced among participants during the process of a negligence claim.



# Background & Significance

- Second Victim Phenomenon
- Neft et al. (2023) examined the lived experience of the CRNA during an adverse event
- National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB)
- Average payment \$947,804
- AANA and Litigation Stress Syndrome

- NPDB Reporting

# Aims

## **Primary:**

The lived Experience of The CRNA

## **Secondary:**

Themes and Recommendations



# Theoretical Framework

## Hybrid Phenomenological Qualitative Model



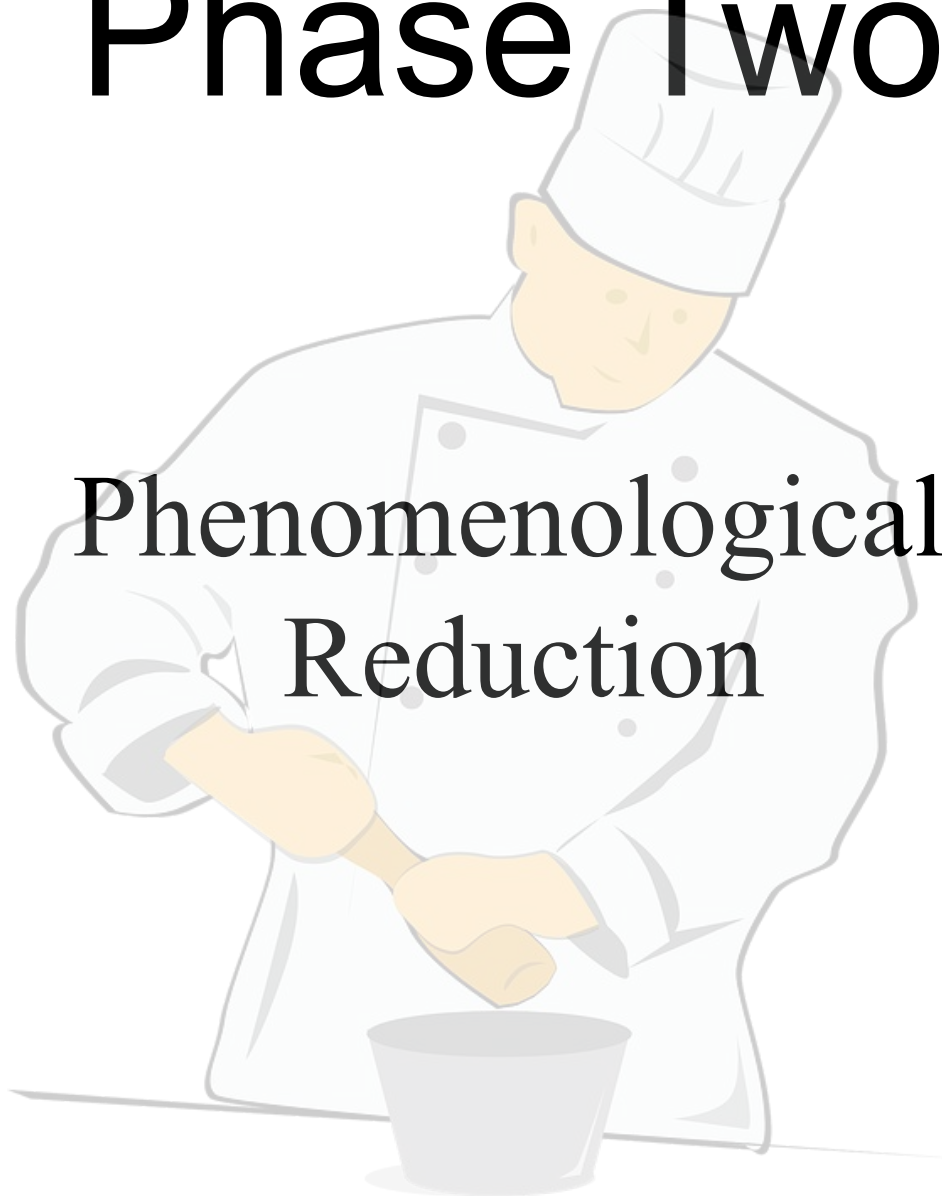
# Phase One

## Bracketing



# Phase Two

## Phenomenological Reduction



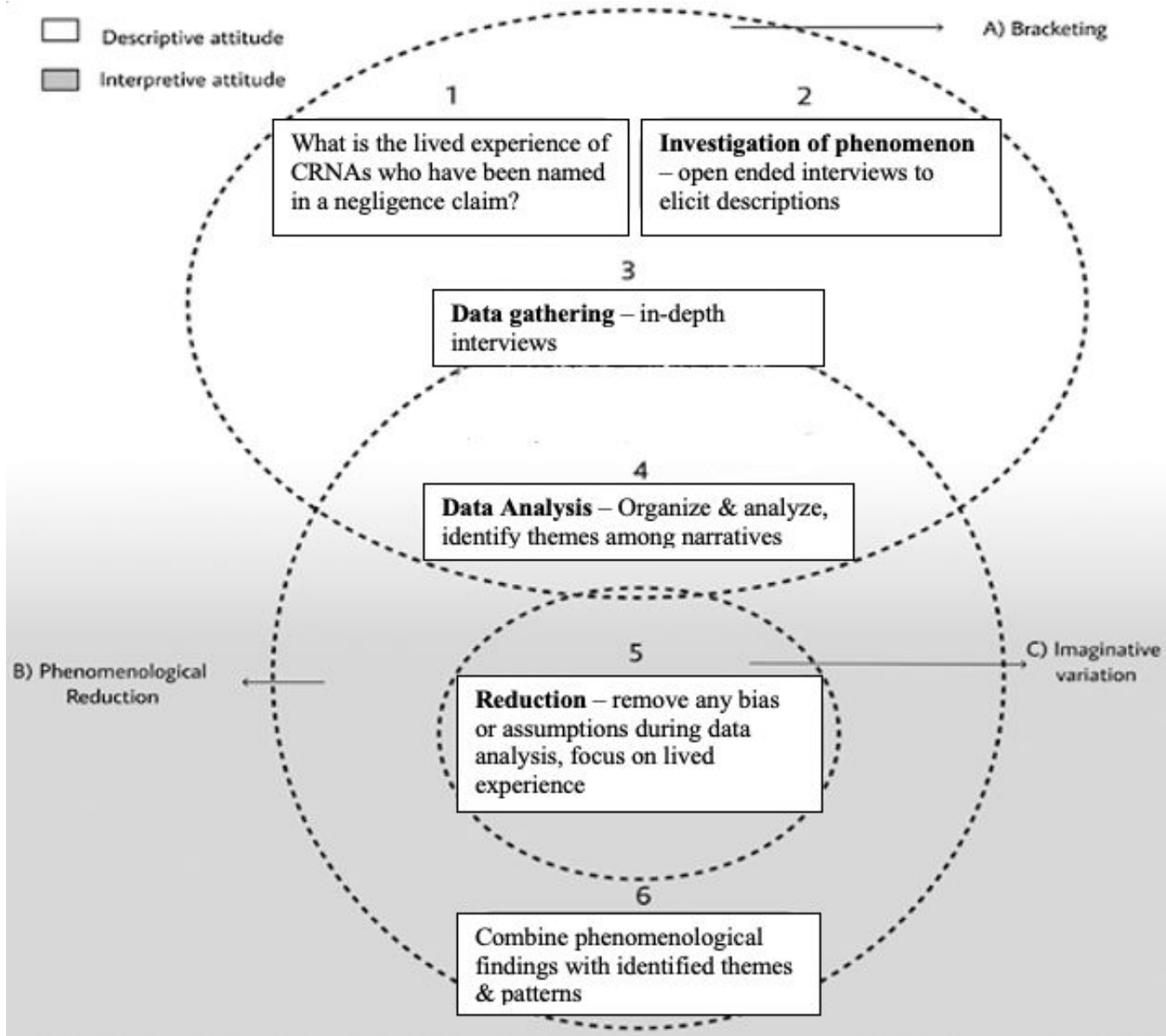


# Phase Three

## Imaginative Variation

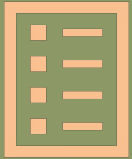


# Hybrid Phenomenological Qualitative Model



Note: Adapted from Alhazmi & Kaufmann, 2022

# Methods



Complete Survey questions



Interviews conducted via Zoom



Obtain IRB approval



Analyze data collection



Invitation email sent



Identify common themes and develop recommendations



# Demographic Results

Characteristic	N (%)	Characteristic	N (%)
<u>Gender</u>		<u>Years of CRNA Experience</u>	
Female	10 (56)	Less than 5 years	1 (6)
Male	8 (44)	5-9	1 (6)
		10-14	1 (6)
		15-19	1 (6)
		20-24	3 (17)
		25+	10 (56)
<u>Age</u>		<u>Marital Status</u>	
18-29	0	Single (never married)	2 (11)
30-39	2 (11)	Married	16 (89)
40-49	2 (11)	Widow	0
50-59	3 (17)	Divorce	0
60-69	8 (44)	Separated	0
70-79	2 (11)		
>80	196)		

# Results

- 11 Participants
  - 55% Female
  - 45% Male
- Experience
  - Incidents 1991 -2002
  - Practice: 2-23 years
    - < 5 years □ 30%  
\*excluding 1 SRNA
    - 5-10 years □ 20%
    - > 10 years □ 50%

# Results



## Reported injury

46% involved death  
36% minor injury  
18% major injury

## Common Themes

Stress  
Sadness  
Isolation  
Overwhelmed

## Coping Strategies

Alcohol  
Compartmentalization  
Support person

## Perception

Potential plaintiffs  
Defensive charting  
Hypervigilance



# Results

## **Support**

Minimal support  
100% reported no time off

## **Impact**

Strained marriage  
Thorough charting  
Malpractice insurance

## **Recommendations**

AANA support group  
Counseling from employer  
Counseling from attorney

## **Influence**

100% no effect on career path  
45% insurance type matter  
55% unsure/NA

# Reflections

*“It’s kind of all-consuming with your life. . . You’re not involved in it every single day, but you. . . always think about it”*

*“Questioned my ability if I should be practicing”*

*“I felt that we had done all that we could for this man”*

*“I felt awful, like my life was over, I felt suicidal”*

*“Going over and over again in my mind what I could’ve done differently, and honestly, I don’t think anything”*

*“It’s not career-ending”*

*“Recurring trauma constantly cropping up unexpectedly”*

*“Hang in there, it’s tough. Keep your head up and continue looking forward. Do the best you can”*



# Patient Perception



*“ . . . made the realization that patients can become plaintiffs ”*

*“It does make you second guess every single decision that you make and every single action that you make as a CRNA ”*

*“ . . . leaves a negative attitude towards patients. . . even though you are doing your best to help then and save them. . . they could sue you at the drop of a hat to get some money*

*“It absolutely reduces your willingness or desire to go the extra mile or advocate for patients ”*

*“I’m really, really strict about not bending the rules ”*

*“I don’t question anything anymore. If I anticipate a difficult airway or extubation, I will call the MD or another CRNA ”*

# Isolation/Support

*“Difficult because you are told not to talk to anyone, and [I] did not want to get [my] spouse involved and have to testify”*

*“My attorney was my best support... it would be easier if there was some way that the AANA could track CRNA lawsuits and have an advocate [for them]”*

*“Sort of the other MDAs treated me differently during the claim, but once the claim closed, I was able to talk to them about it”*

*“They were irritated when they had to have someone cover my shift for trial”*

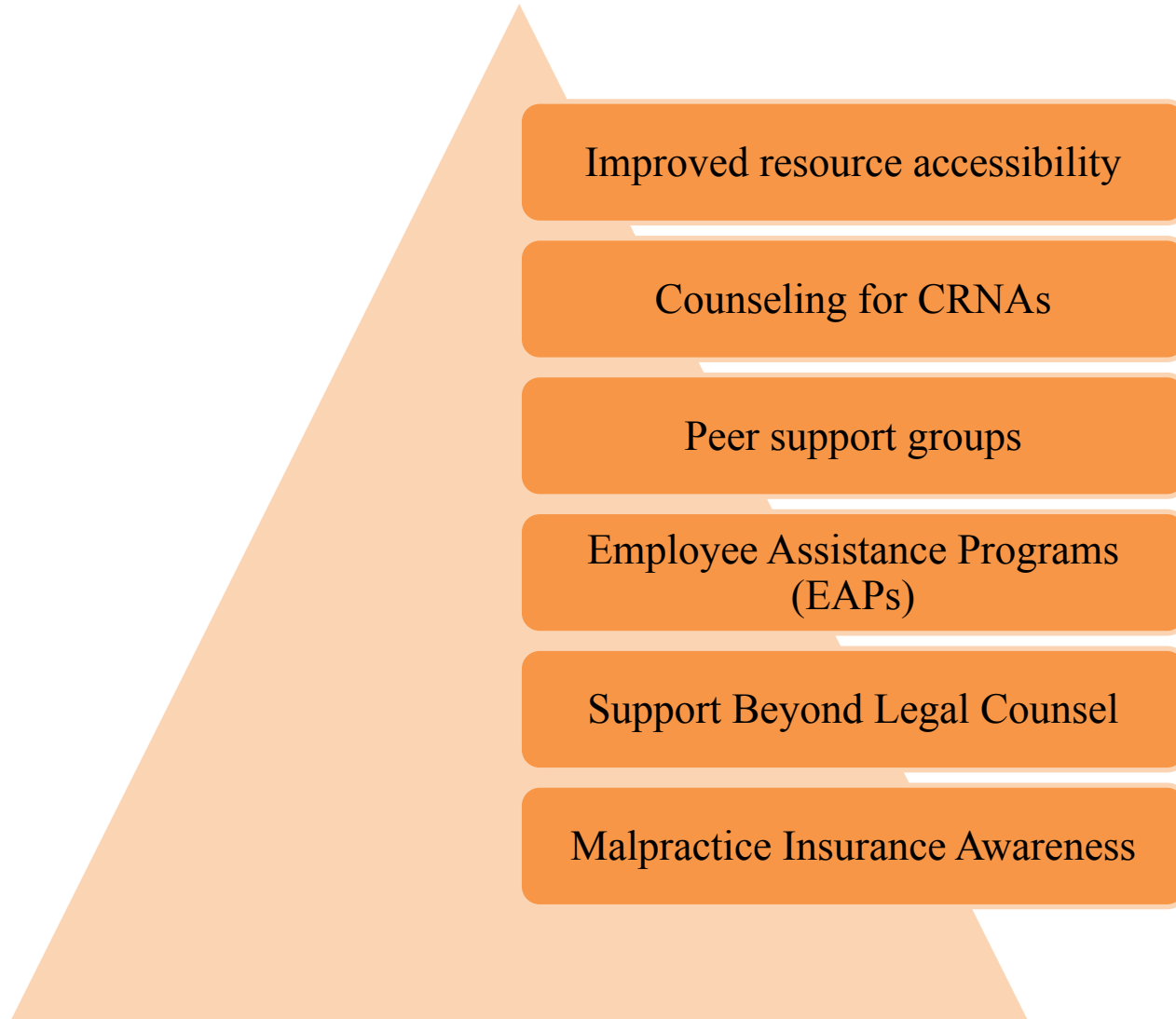
*“I finished court and [when it was done] I went to work at the hospital”*



# Stated Practice Changes

Questions	Yes	No
❖ Avoiding unstable patients?	18%	82%
❖ Hesitant taking care of certain patients?	9%	91%
❖ Charting more thorough or comprehensive?	64%	36%
❖ Changed the way you consider preoperative tests? More/less	9%	91%
❖ Reduction in quantity of medication administered?	0%	100%
❖ Increase in the quantity of medication administered?	0%	100%

# Clinical Impact





# Next Steps



## Stakeholder Engagement

- Direct recommendations



## Spark future research

- Address limitations



## Publication/ Social Media

- Raise awareness



# References

