Background
The goal of an RRT is to identify and treat patients at risk for physiologic deterioration before they go into cardiac or respiratory arrest [2]. RRTs are generally initiated by the bedside nurse and consist of a multidisciplinary team. Research has proven that RRTs are successful in decreasing hospital codes and minimizing the number of patients who necessitate transfer to units with higher acuity levels [3, 4, 5, 6].

Nursing literature shows that RRTs are also important in providing support and assistance for the bedside nurse [7,8]. Additionally, RRTs can be beneficial in improving nurse/physician communication [3, 5, 8, 9]. RRTs have also been shown to improve utilization of resources [10, 11].

Only three prior studies examine the experiences or perceptions of nurses involved in RRTs [7]. There are no studies which specifically examine American nurses experiences with RRTs.

Purpose
To explore the experience of nurses involved in the utilization of a rapid response team.

Research Methodology
Participants
Registered Nurses from a large NH medical center participated in this phenomenological study. Nurse participants must have called an RRT at least one time; however, there was no limit to the number of times they have called.

Data Collection and Analysis
Open ended interviews were conducted utilizing the research question “tell me about your experience with using the rapid response team.” Clarification questions were used as needed. Interviews were between 15-30 minutes in length and were audiotaped. Tapes were subsequently transcribed verbatim. The Giorgi method of phenomenology was used for analysis.

Concluding Remarks
Overall, nurses involved in this study look at RRTs in a very positive light. RRTs are considered a great addition to this particular hospital setting.

• This study shed light on what may be a lack of orientation of hospital staff to the RRT process. Increased hospital staff orientation would increase comfort and communication between the staff nurse who makes the call and responding team.

• More research needs to be conducted regarding the experiences of the staff nurse involved in an RRT. Participants in this study were charge nurses. The experience of the nurse during an RRT is crucial to the quality of care being delivered.