**Meaning the health risk: modes of action on the risk in health surveillance**

**Abstract**

This qualitative study that utilizes Symbolic Interactionism as a theoretical background and Grounded Theory as a method, sought to understand the modes of action about risk. It summarizes the meanings of risk to the professionals of Health Surveillance (HS), and analyses the modes of action to control it. The summary is the systematization of the interpretations and meanings of risk.The analysis shows the existence of two modes of action, allowing to undertake the application of the meaning of risk in the scope of domain of an specific knowledge.Between the risk identification and the intervention there are processes that mixture the rationality, subjectivity, authority, control, experience, the formal knowledge acquired. The act of the HS professional consists of knowledge, acquired experience, socio-cultural contexts, and interactions that define and redefine the modes of action.The actions are based on the meanings of the risk that moves in the planes of objectivity and subjectivity and, the legislation is an important instrument of decision and persuasion.Although there is an offset to the use of the knowledge and experience, it is the legal framework that prints what should or should not be controlled.

Key words**:** Health Risk, Health Surveillance, Qualitative Research