The concept of symptom burden commonly is used in medical and psychological literature, especially in reference to patients with chronic or terminal illnesses (Desbiens, Mueller-Rizner, Connors, Wenger, & Lynn, 1999; Klinkenberg, Willems, van der Wal, & Deeg, 2004; Kutner, Kassner, & Nowels, 2001; Nelson et al., 2004; Rose, Koshman, Spreng, & Sheldon, 2000; Ruo et al., 2003; Silveira, Kabeto, & Langa, 2005; Walke, Gallo, Tinetti, & Fried, 2004; Weisbord et al., 2003). Few research investigations concerning symptom burden have appeared in the nursing literature (Longman, Braden, & Mishel, 1997; Zambroski, Moser, Bhat, & Ziegler, 2005); however, multiple related concepts, such as symptom distress, commonly are explored (McCormick, Naimark, & Tate, 2002; Schneider, 1999). The recent concept analyses of symptom clusters (Kim, McGuire, Tulman, & Barsevick, 2005) and symptoms experience (Armstrong, 2004) bring into question inter-relationships among various symptom concepts, including symptom burden. A clear definitional concept of symptom burden is required for continued advancement of scientific knowledge about the symptom experience (Beck, 2004).

Several self-report instruments are available that measure particular concepts in the symptom experience, including symptom burden and symptom distress (Barresi, Shadbolt, & Barsevick, 2005) and symptoms experience (Armstrong, 2004). The technique requires a multidisciplinary literature review to identify attributes, antecedents, surrogate and related concepts, consequences, and contextual variations of the concept. This literature analysis will address the following questions.

**Methods**

Rodgers’ (2000) evolutionary method of concept analysis allows for a dynamic reality with overlapping and interrelated elements in a multitude of contexts and disciplines. The technique requires a multidisciplinary literature review to identify attributes, antecedents, surrogate and related concepts, consequences, and contextual variations of the concept. This literature analysis will address the following questions.