

Summary of Included Studies

Author	Title	Main Aim(s)	Design and Methodology	Setting and Sampling	Data analysis	Main Themes	Main Limitations
Davenport ²⁸	'The experience of new nurses beginning critical care practice: an interpretive phenomenologic study.'	What is the experience of being a new nurse beginning clinical practice in ICU?	Phenomenology Semi-structured interviews Follow up group interview	United States 5 district and tertiary referral centres NQN purposive sample (n=8) (<1 year post qualifying)	Audiotapes transcribed verbatim. Transcripts analysed by researcher, alongside anecdotal observations in researcher's journal. All transcripts read at least twice by researcher. Selective highlighting approach used.	Finding a home The hardest things Family care Colleagues Socialization Teamwork Questions Patient emergencies and death Watchfulness Moving on	Participants contacted directly by researcher No mention of a second person in data analysis process
Della Ratta ²⁹	'Challenging graduate nurses' transition: care of the deteriorating patient'	To understand novice nurses' experiences of caring for a deteriorating patient during the first year of practice.	Phenomenology Semi-structured interviews	United States 4 hospitals, ranging from small community hospitals to large tertiary referral centres. Purposive sample (n=8) (3 from ICU, clearly identifiable) (<1 year post qualifying)	Audio recorded and transcribed verbatim by researcher. Transcripts read by the researcher in their entirety. Themes extracted and transcripts repeatedly re-read. Transcripts also read by expert qualitative researcher to confirm interpretations. Final themes reviewed by 2 expert preceptors. Reflective journal kept by researcher.	Dwelling with uncertainty - facing the unexpected; putting feelings on hold; reaching for a lifeline; anguishing in reflection. Building me up- relying on others; seeking camaraderie; building my own toolbox. A new lifeline, salient being- giving up the ideal; seeing possibilities.	Final themes were reviewed by expert preceptors rather than the participants themselves

Supplementary material

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Hussein et al. ²⁵	'New graduate nurses' experiences in a clinical speciality: a follow up study of newcomer perceptions of transitional support.'	Identify areas of clinical supervision that influenced new graduates experiences during a transitional support programme (TSP). To examine changes in new graduates perceptions of their practice environment. To explore their experiences during the transition period.	Convergent mixed methods study Survey containing closed questions, giving quantitative data and open ended questions, giving qualitative data.	Australia Single centre study, large tertiary referral centre. NQN purposive sample (n = 72) (< 12 months post qualifying)	Conventional content analysis technique used to analyse open-ended survey responses. Emergent themes initially analysed by two researchers, final data coding completed by primary researcher.	Orientation and TSP as a foundation for success - Instrumental support during transition; understanding the clinical capabilities of becoming a new graduate; becoming part of the team. Developing clinical competence - appropriate workload and working within scope of practice; adequate skill mix; building clinical confidence and competence.	Purposive sample- all students on TSP (captive population) Single centre study
Lewis-Pierre ³⁰	'Workplace readiness of new ICU nurses: perceptions of managers, educators, preceptors and new RN graduates.'	To generate a theory of workplace readiness and the needs of new graduates entering the ICU from the perspective of managers, educators, preceptors and new RN graduates.	Grounded theory Semi-structured interviews, with each participant group. Separate question set for new graduates. Pilot study	United States Single centre with 5 intensive care units of different specialities. NQN purposive sample (n = 7) (< 2 years post qualifying)	Audio transcriptions and interviewer notes were analysed using a constant comparative process, consisting of open, axial and selective coding. NVivo 9 software used to assist data analysis. Auditor verified data analysis process.	Overwhelming experience of performance ambiguity or anxiety. Adapting to ICU. Embodying the new ICU RN role.	Single-centre study

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O'Kane ²⁴	'Newly qualified nurses experiences in the intensive care unit'	To investigate different experiences of NQNs starting their career in critical care.	Comparative, qualitative approach Two participant groups: NQNs and senior nurses (band 7 or above). NQNs interviewed through semi-structured interviews. Senior nurses interviewed through focus groups.	England Single centre, large teaching hospital NQN purposive sample (n=8) (< 1 year post qualification)	Audio tapes transcribed verbatim by researcher. Early stage data analysis used a four step process of comprehending, synthesising, theorising and re-contextualising. Later data analysis used Colaizzi's 7 Stage Framework. Participants contacted again to validate themes.	Expectations- transitional period; going into the numbers; ICU incentive. Challenges- tasks; good day/bad day. Preconceptions: being a student in ICU; ward bias. Support- preceptorship, competency based practice; supernumerary.	Methodology not fully described Research philosophy not stated Coding solely by the researcher Researcher an educator on the unit Single centre
Saghafi et al. ²⁶	'New graduates nurses' experiences of interactions in the critical care unit.'	To highlight the importance of interaction in the intensive care setting from the new graduate nurse perspective.	Phenomenology Individual semi-structured interviews	Australia Single centre, major acute hospital NQN purposive sample (n=10) (<12 months post qualifying)	Audiotapes transcribed into Microsoft word. Transcripts reread until themes emerged. CAQDAS was used to accelerate and automate the coding process. Participants were invited to validate findings.	Interaction with others- interaction with patients; interactions with other members of the ICU team; who is approachable; feedback.	Researcher was known to the participants Single centre
Salkaya ²⁷	'The lived experiences of graduate nurses working in an intensive care unit as their first placement after graduation: a phenomenological study.'	To gain insight into the experiences of graduate nurses working in an intensive care unit as their first placement after graduation.	Phenomenology Individual semi-structured interviews	Australia Single centre, private hospital Purposive sample (n= 5) (< 1 year post qualifying)	Audiotapes transcribed verbatim by researcher. Transcripts reviewed by participants. Analysed using a 3 stage process: naïve reading, structural analysis and comprehensive understanding/interpreted whole. Process cross-checked by dissertation supervisor.	Challenges Hyper-feelings Needing education Support Time Confidence Wanting to stay in ICU	Researcher was also an educator at the hospital participants were recruited from Unable to recruit from other sites (private hospitals only)

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Wiles ³¹	'Basic knowledge in critical care: a comparison of experienced and newly graduated nurses augmented with an examination of newly graduated nurses experience making clinical judgements'	<p>To investigate the level of basic knowledge of NGNs working in the critical care setting and to compare it to the level of basic knowledge of their experienced counterparts.</p> <p>To understand and interpret the experiences of NGNs as they make clinical judgements in the critical care setting.</p>	<p>Mixed methods design. Qualitative portion used phenomenology.</p> <p>Quantitative portion used a Basic Knowledge Assessment Tool (BKAT-7). Qualitative element used individual semi-structured interviews. Findings from both quantitative and qualitative studies were triangulated.</p>	<p>United States</p> <p>7 hospitals in one region (3 represented in qualitative sample)</p> <p>Purposive sample (n = 5) (<18 months post qualifying)</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Audiotapes transcribed verbatim into a word processing programme by a paid transcriptionist. Data analysed by a principle investigator, 2 members of the dissertation committee and an external qualitative researcher. Secondary interviews by telephone or in person to validate themes.</p>	<p>Developing confidence in practice- situational paralysis; self-confidence; defining moment.</p> <p>Seeking assistance- importance of support; lack of support; calling the physician.</p> <p>Decision making- self-doubt; lack of experience; decision framework; reflection.</p>	<p>Transcripts not reviewed by participants for accuracy</p> <p>Coding process not detailed – e.g. manual or software used, no coding tree</p> <p>Limited sample – 3 participants from one hospital</p>