Reviewer's report

Title: Nurses’ perceptions and experiences of communication in the operating theatre: a focus group interview

Version: 1 Date: 1 August 2005

Reviewer: Stephen Timmons

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Page 7 : no details of ethical review given
Page 8 : more detail needed on how the data were analysed. Were they coded ? How did the themes emerge ? How did the researchers decide which themes were sufficiently important to be included in the paper ?
Page 14 : needs to make reference to the debate in the operating room nursing literature about whose responsibility draping the patient actually is. Some authors think it is a nursing role. It's worth having a look in the British Journal of Perioperative Nursing
Page 15 : the issue of the theatre nurse being the patient’s advocate is also debated in the operating room nursing literature. You need to include some reference to this debate, notably the work of Dr.Helen McGarvey from the University of Ulster
Page 18 : The notion of the 'go-between' could be linked to our work on emotional labour by operating theatre nurses. See J Tanner and S Timmons(2005)
Operating theatre nurses: emotional labour and the hostess role. International Journal of Nursing Practice Vol. 11, p85-91

Page 21 : there's an extensive debate about the role of the theatre nurse in the operating room nursing literature, and this needs to be referenced. It's worth having a look at what writers like Paul Wicker and Andy Mardell have had to say about this.
Page 22, paragraphs 3 and 4. These need to be linked to the work that has been published on these topics including our papers :
J Tanner and S Timmons. (2000)
Back-stage in the theatre Journal of Advanced Nursing Vol.32, No. 4, p975-981

Sociology of Health and Illness Vol. 26, no. 5, p645-666

A Reynolds and S Timmons (2005)The doctor-nurse relationship in the operating theatre
British Journal of Peri-Operative Nursing Vol. 15, No. 3, p110-115

Minor Essential Revisions

Page 20 : the term 'runner' is UK-specific, and needs to be explained
What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests