Reviewer’s report

Title: New graduate nurses' experiences in a clinical specialty: A follow up study of newcomer perceptions of transitional support

Version: 0 Date: 25 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Angel Romero-Collado

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review your paper "New graduate nurses' experiences in a clinical specialty: A follow up study of newcomer perceptions of transitional support". The overall topic addressed is of interest to the nursing profession. However, there are some issues that should be clarified for the manuscript to be useful to the international nursing education and practice.

Keywords: Please use MeSH terms. Eg. Nurses.

Methods: In the study limitations section you told that the PES-AUS was modified from a 4-point Likert scale to a 5 point. Can you explain this in this section? When readers find it in the study limitations it creates a bit of confusion. Then, in the results section, you can expose how many nurses chose this mid-point answer.

Results

There may be confusion when using the completion level of surveys. It's correct that from the 114 (81%) new graduates that completed the baseline survey 87 where the 76% of 114, but it's the 62% of the 140 initial (114/140=81%). This confusion can be seen in the study 'limitations' section, when you wrote "more than three-quarters of the sample completing the follow-up survey...".

The quantitative findings would be better understood if you use a table to illustrate them and in the text you will quote the most important results (Sample characteristics and Experiences over time).

Results need to show the number of participants (n) not only the %, you can provide it n(%). For example, in the qualitative findings "Almost two-thirds of participants" or in the Table 1, how many nurses answer in the baseline and in the follow-up?

Discussion

In the study limitations you can explain why you think the study lost 27 new graduates, and how did it affect to the final results.
As I told in the results section, 'more than three-quarters of the sample' did not complete the follow-up survey. Your study population were the 140 new graduated nurses.

References

Please check the correct form of citation of references as appears in the submissions guidelines (https://bmcnurs.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/research-article)

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.