Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 04 May 2017

Reviewer: Souraya Sidani

Reviewer’s report:

The clarifications made in the revised paper are helpful in better understand the design, the difference between programmed study days and orientation days, and the steps for conducting the qualitative data analysis and for integrating the quantitative and the qualitative findings.

The following are editorial suggestions:

In the abstract, the presentation of the methods for data collection and analysis could be streamlined so that the scales to collect quantitative data are presented altogether (e.g. 10 point rating scale and standardized instruments) then the open-ended questions to elicit nurses' perceptions - it would be useful to provide briefly, some information about what exactly these questions were intended to capture. The same applied to data analysis. If space is an issue, then the CCA can be mentioned as the approach for qualitative data analysis, without the details on how it was done.

In the background section:

1. The second sentence in the first paragraph on p. 3 is incomplete - is it that transitional programs offer opportunities for new graduate nurses' exposure to the different components listed?

2. The second aim could clarify the "orientation" program relates to "facility and ward orientation" - as mentioned in the previous paragraph and for consistency of terminology.

In the results section, under theme 1, the newly added second sentence is a bit confusing in explaining the indicators of good support. Cutting the sentence into 2, one to clarify the indicators of good support and one to describe their perception, could be useful.

The authors may consider a thorough editorial review to correct some grammatical errors.

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.