Nursing students' experiences of professional patient care encounters in a hospital unit.
A systematic review
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AIM
To identify, appraise and synthesize the best available evidence exploring nursing students’ experiences of professional patient care encounters in a hospital unit. More specific calling:

How do nursing students describe their experiences of professional patient care in a hospital unit?

BACKGROUND
In a hospital unit the learning environment presents obstacles that may leave the nursing students with feelings of nervousness and concerns when they enter into relationships with patients during their clinical periods. Understanding the students’ experiences is appreciated in supporting students to overcome challenges and fulfill expectations concerning future clinical competences and to prevent student attrition.

METHOD
A systematic review following the reviewer’s manual from The Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) was used.

THE FIRST STEP was the search for evidence-based literature to identify the topic of the review through a preliminary search of PubMed and CINAHL. Once the topic was identified, a focused, answerable question was developed and specified in detail in the review objective section of the systematic review protocol. To guide the structuring of the systematic review questions; a mnemonic for qualitative reviews was developed to identify the key aspects (table 1).

Table 1. PICo

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of participants</th>
<th>Types of phenomena of interest</th>
<th>Types of contexts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This review will consider studies that include nursing students independently of the level of their clinical period.</td>
<td>This review will consider studies that investigate nursing students’ experiences of professional patient care encounters.</td>
<td>This review will consider studies that investigate the clinical education in a hospital unit.</td>
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THE SECOND STEP consisted of a systematic search for published and unpublished qualitative studies using 23 keywords carried out in: PubMed, CINAHL, ERIC, TRIP, Academic Search Premier, Mednar, Google Scholar, ProQuest, OpenGrey and relevant websites. To determine the inclusion of studies the PRISMA flow diagram was used (figure 2).

THE THIRD STEP included two reviewers critically appraising of eight studies through the JBI Qualitative Assessment and Review Instrument (QARI) prior inclusion of studies; in addition, data were extracted using QARI. The critically appraisal led the inclusion of four studies, representing the experiences of 73 participants from four different countries: Canada, The United States, Taiwan and Sweden.

THE FOURTH STEP consisted aggregation and categorizing of the qualitative findings aiming for a meta-synthesis. Six themes based on 19 subthemes and 37 findings emerged to how nursing students describe their experiences of professional patient care encounters in a hospital unit (figure 3).

CONCLUSION
Evidence is prepared on the nursing students’ experiences of professional patient care encounters in a hospital unit as an approach to preparing and guiding nursing students through their clinical periods. The results of this systematic review may be relevant for clinical instructors in a hospital unit, teachers in nursing schools and student counselors involved in the education.

Figure 1. The process of the systematic review

Figure 2. PRISMA flow chart of inclusion process

Figure 3. Preliminary results

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