Factors which influence on nursing students’ experiences in an Inter-professional Clinical Study Unit

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BACKGROUND
Length of hospitalization is reduced demanding effective and timely interventions from all health professions. In an Inter-professional Clinical Study Unit (ICSU) students have the opportunity to develop inter-professional competencies. Nevertheless some nursing students have commented that staying in an ICSU is an interruption in their final clinical placement with limited learning possibilities.

AIMS
The aim of the study was to explore nursing students’ experiences of taking part in an ICSU.

METHODS
The Study was qualitative with explorative, descriptive and interpretive aspects. Data were collected among nursing students by focus group interviews.

A total of 40 nursing students met the inclusion criteria: students had passed the final clinical placement and had stayed in the ICSU for 14 days during the final clinical placement. Of these, 14 students were randomly selected and invited to participate in the study; nine students accepted to participate. These students were randomly divided into two groups.

FINDINGS
Nursing students increased knowledge of both own and other professions. Similarly, they realized the importance of inter-professional teamwork. However, they problematized that it was difficult to see the relevance and to integrate the stay at ICSU in their final clinical placement. Moreover, students spent a considerable amount of time on basic nursing tasks during their stay at the ICSU; skills already acquired earlier in their education programme.

CONCLUSION
Staying in an ICSU improved inter-professional collaboration skills. It is, however, important for the theoretical part as well as the clinical part of the educational program to stress the importance of basic nursing tasks being the foundation for nursing assessments in the final part of the education. Several initiatives have been made in order to make a better connection between the ordinary clinical placement and the stay in the ICSU.

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