University of Huddersfield Repository

Barlow, Nichola

What the Nurse does Exploring the nurses contribution to the resolution of ethical dilemmas in secondary care - the pilot study

Original Citation


This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/9785/

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/
What the Nurse does
Exploring the nurses contribution to the resolution of ethical dilemmas in secondary care - the pilot study

Authors
Nichola Ann Barlow BhSc (Hons) MSc
PhD Student
School of Human and Health Sciences. The University of Huddersfield, Queensgate, Huddersfield. HD1 3DH
E-mail: n.a.barlow@hud.ac.uk

Abstract

Introduction
Nurses face ethical dilemmas as part of their professional practice and it is often these that cause the greatest concern for the patient, their family and the nurse (Storch 2004, DH,1999). It is therefore important that we are able to understand what registered nurses contribute to addressing these dilemmas as they occur.

Aim of the study
The aim of this pilot study is to test the data collection methods for a study in order to examine what it is that Registered Nurses contribute to the resolution of ethical dilemmas as part of their nursing practice.

Methods
This is a qualitative study using audio recording of semi-structured interviews to collect narrative data from participants (Polit and Beck 2006). A two phased analysis was undertaken a thematic approach, followed by a narrative analysis to examine the cultural dimensions within the clinical setting (Burns and Grove 2001).

Results
Questions required minor amendments and three themes emerged from the data:

Organisational priorities
Nurse – phycian relationship
‘Best for the patient’

Discussion incl. Conclusion
Participants identified and discussed conflicts that have arisen between organisational objectives, procedures or protocol and that which was thought to be ‘best for the patient’.

Practical relevance
This pilot study highlighted the importance of developing the appropriate interviewing skills required for data collection and appropriate wording of questions to illicit the required data from participants prior to undertaking major study

Research implications
Three key areas identified by registered nurses in relation to ethical dilemmas where further research would be beneficial.

References
Burns N & Grove S K (2001). The Practice of Nursing Research; Conduct, Critique and Utilisation Philadelphia: W B Saunders