

## **NURSES' AND PATIENTS' PERCEPTIONS ABOUT PSYCHIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE - AN INTEGRATIVE LITERATURE REVIEW**

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**Background:** Patients who cause increased risk of violence towards nurses or other patients are treated in psychiatric intensive care units (PICU). PICU environment requires from nurses expertise in managing violent patients and maintaining the safety and at the same time offering emotional support. For patients, treatment in PICU may be stressful due to strict restrictions. For this review, psychiatric intensive care unit is defined as a specialized unit treating violent psychiatric patients who can't be treated safely in less secure environment.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to examine patients' and health care staffs' perceptions of psychiatric intensive care unit, based on previous international literature.

**Methods:** Integrative literature review was carried out to achieve the aim of the study. Systematic search in five scientific databases (PubMed, CINAHL, Cochrane, PsycINFO and Web of Science) was conducted in April 2020. Search terms were chosen based on PI(C)O framework (Stone 2002). The Mixed Method Appraisal Tool (MMAT) (2018) was used to assess the quality of the included studies. Data was analyzed using content analysis.

**Results:** In total, 4281 articles were identified through the database search and 21 articles were included in this review. Health care staff perceived work in PICU as balancing between different care philosophies. In addition, PICU was experienced as a challenging work environment, with various nursing interventions. Patients experiences in PICU were twofold, and were strongly related in rules, safety policies and restrictions in the PICU environment.

**Conclusions:** Health care staff and patient perspectives of PICU's gives insight about how to further develop this demanding work environment, for example from safety point of view or how to support patients self-determination while being at PICU.