

ACCCN Annual Education Meeting 2022

Gold Coast, Australia, Oct 20-21, 2022.

Up-skill training and preparedness of non-critical care registered nurses deployed to intensive care during the Covid-19 pandemic - A scoping review.

Presenting Author Belinda Causby
Co-Author Dr Samantha Jakimowicz
Co-Author Distinguished Professor Tracy Levett-Jones

Background

The increase in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity compelled by the Covid-19 pandemic required the rapid deployment of non-critical care registered nurses (RNs) to the ICU setting. The up-skill training needed to prepare these RNs for deployment to ICU was rapidly assembled due to the limited timeframe associated with the escalating pandemic. Scoping the literature to identify the content, structure and effectiveness of up-skill education is necessary to identify lessons learned during the Covid-19 response so that they may guide workforce preparation for future pandemic planning.

Aim

The aim of this scoping review was to identify and discuss the available information regarding up-skill training and preparedness of non-critical care RNs deployed to the ICU during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Methods

This scoping review was conducted in accordance with JBI methodology. A protocol outlined the review questions and used the participants, concept, context (PCC) framework to define the inclusion and exclusion criteria. A search of healthcare databases MEDLINE (Ovid), Embase (Ovid), CINAHL (EBSCO), Cochrane and Scopus was supplemented with a grey literature search via google.

Results

526 records underwent independent screening and review by two authors, 129 proceeded on to full text review and 28 to data extraction. Analysis revealed variation in; duration of programs, theoretical versus practical content, face to face or online mode of delivery and duration of preparation time at the bedside in the ICU setting.

Discussion

Evaluation of up-skill education was mostly limited to post training surveys. Few explored the preparedness of deployed RNs as an outcome of their up-skill training or described measures of effectiveness of ICU deployment.

Conclusion

There is limited evidence describing preparedness of non-critical care RNs on deployment to the ICU. Further research is needed to identify what elements of up-skill education led to preparedness and effective deployment to the ICU setting.