PIII-25: Twelve Hour Clinical Rotations and Their Effect on Continuity of Care Provided by New Graduates of an Accelerated BSN Program

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Abstract:
Introduction: With the current shortage of registered nurses, nursing schools are seeking innovative methods to produce more nurses in the shortest period of time. Accelerated BSN programs are attempting to help fill these gaps. The perceptions of the accelerated students in the programs and their perceived preparedness for practice is important to understand for improvement of these programs. The purpose of this study was to explore the perceptions of Accelerated BSN students 7-10 months post graduation in regards to their feelings of preparation for their role as a new nurse.

Method(s): Qualitative methods were used to explore this phenomenon. A focus group of seven post graduate Accelerated BSN students was used. All 7 participants had been in practice for 7-10 months as an RN. An interview guide was used with open ended questions geared toward clinical readiness after graduation. More specific probe questions were used to explore the new nurses' perceptions of 8 hour versus 12 hour rotations they experienced during their tenure as a student. Content analysis and constant comparative methods were used to analyze the qualitative data.

Results: The preliminary results indicate that students prepared with 12 hour clinical rotations on 3 consecutive days show significant self efficacy and satisfaction in their initial nursing experience. The data indicates that the new graduates felt the 12 hour rotations on 3 consecutive days gave them more confidence and aided "continuity" of care compared to the 8 hour clinicals they experienced earlier in the program.
**Discussion & Conclusions:** Accelerated BSN programs in an attempt to quickly provide more Registered Nurses to the workforce have the potential to positively impact the nursing deficit. Although the educational program is provided in a shorter time period, innovative teaching strategies, such as the 12 hour clinical rotations have shown to be more than adequate to prepare these new nurses. Future research should continue in this area by exploring and/or comparing the Accelerated BSN programs to the traditional BSN programs. It would also be beneficial to explore the possibility of changing traditional programs to include 12 hour clinicals in their curriculum.

**Abstract History:**
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

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