



An interpretive phenomenological pilot study: The male nurse perception of career development



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Rationale

There is a national shortage of nurses that is affecting the patient care delivery throughout the United Kingdom (UK) (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), 2014). Following the Mid-Staffordshire inquiry into the failings in patient care the resulting Francis Report (2013) recommends growth is needed in the nursing workforce, especially with regard to skilled nurses providing the holistic care of specific patients. Arguably, to echo the diversity of the population, there needs to be larger numbers of minority groups within the nursing profession including male nurses. Male Nurses continue to represent a substantially small number of the full nursing workforce across the UK (Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), 2011).

A critical literature review was undertaken, looking at the perception of male nurses within the nursing profession, as part of the Doctor of Health Care and Social Care Practice programme (PB9AG). Following this literature review it has been noted that there was a gap in the qualitative research available internationally and no qualitative research was available within the UK to look at the experience of male nurses within the female dominant profession of nursing. Thus this pilot study intends to fill this identified gap in knowledge.

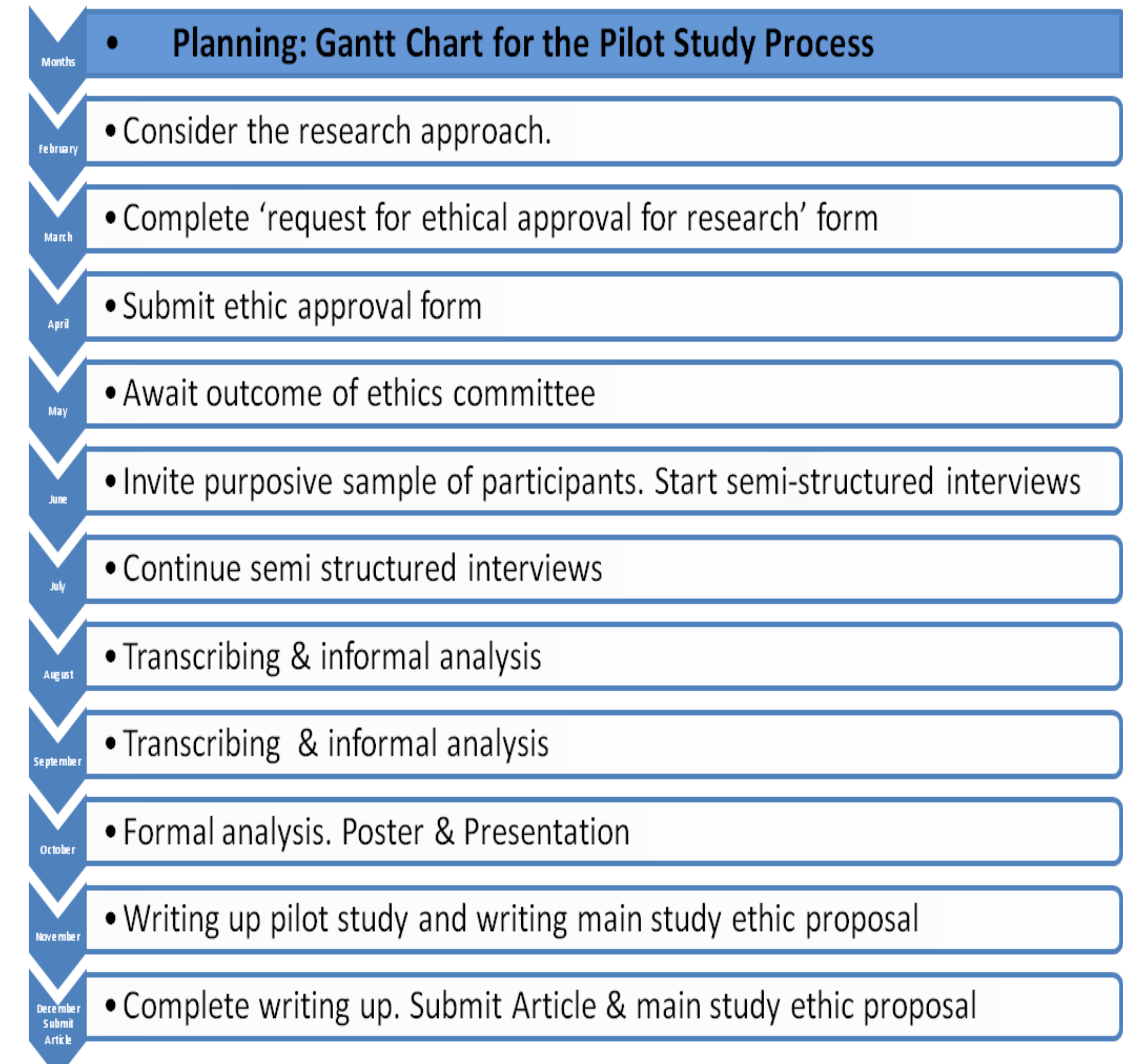
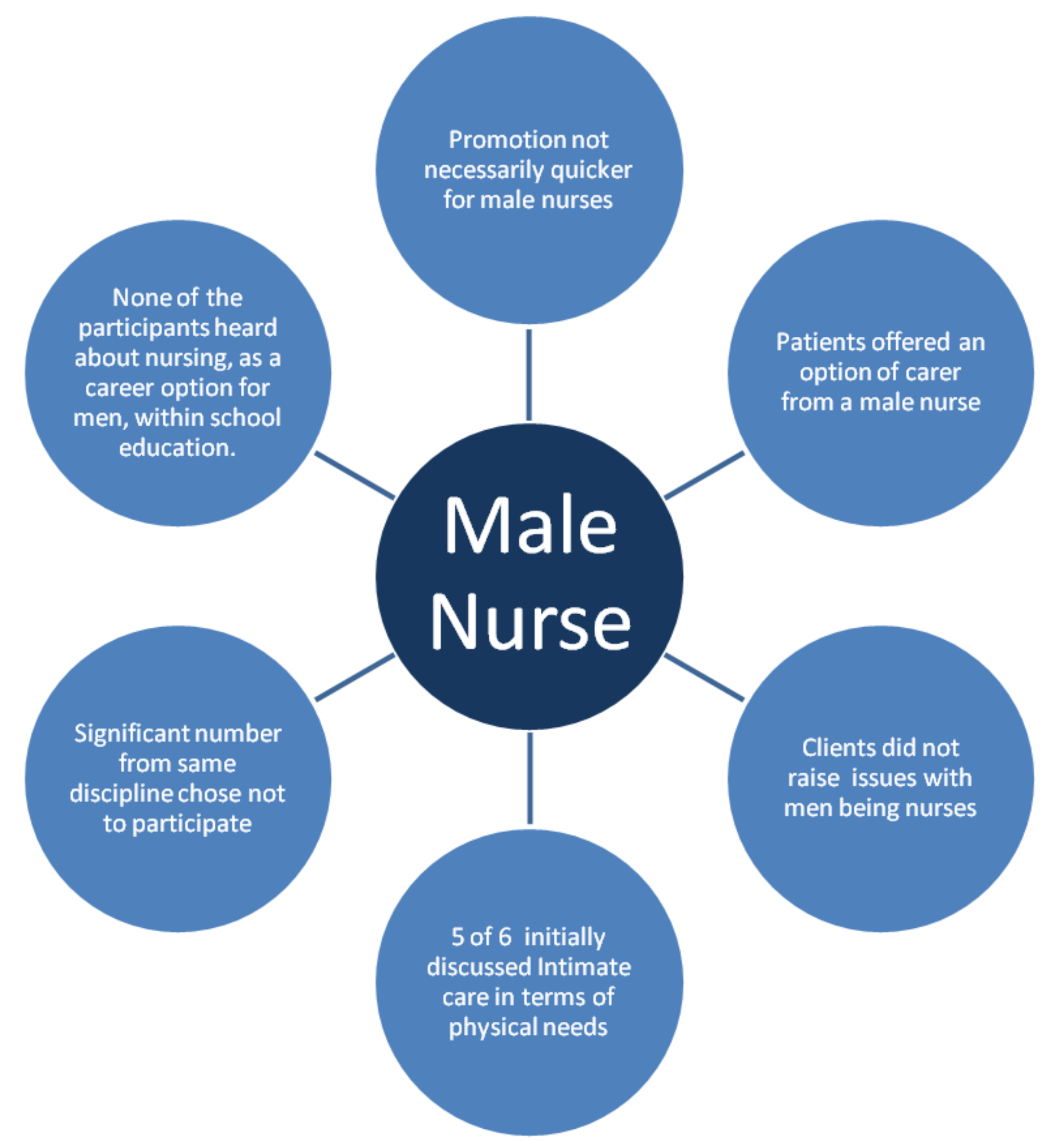
Aim.;
To Investigate the male perspective of being a nurse.

Objectives;
1. To undertake a pilot research study
2. To carry out semi-structured interviews with a purposeful sample of male nurses, to gain a male nurse perspective of being a nurse.
3. To collate the data from the interviews and critically analyse the content to derive the research questions appropriate for the main research study that will be with male Health Visitors.

Method

An interpretive phenomenological method was used to elicit the experience and examine the presented truths (Streubert and Carpenter, 2011), rather than a third party perception, of the experience that six male nurses have had in nursing. The study design was qualitative in nature in order to meet the methodological gap identified from a previous literature review. It drew out the lived experience from the male nurses using an 'emic' position in that only the male nurse can understand what being a male nurse is like (McIntosh-Scott, Mason-Whitefield and Coyle, 2014). Face to face semi structured interviews were utilised in order to extrapolate the male nurse perception of nursing within a female dominant nursing profession. The data collected has been transcribed and checked for clarity by the individual participants prior to data analysis taking place. The transcribed interviews are being read and reread, over and over, in order to undertake analysis of the content and identify emerging themes for discussion (Padgett 2012).

Emerging themes to date



Limitations

The results of this pilot study cannot be generalised due to the small sample size and lack of representation from all Nursing and Midwifery Council registered nursing pathways.

Key Recommendations

- Careers advice with in schools should include advice on gender neutral career opportunities within the caring professions.
- A wider study of the career development of men who are nurses is required to take all disciplines into account.
- Research should be carried out on students entering the nursing profession in the United Kingdom now as cultural and traditional beliefs held with regard to sexual stereotypes may have changed over recent years.

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