



Work-related experiences, perceptions, and challenges in healthcare professionals working in eating disorder settings: initial findings to a scoping review



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Introduction

- Eating disorders (ED's) are complex, treatment-resistant, highly-stigmatized illnesses
- Perspectives of patients with ED's by healthcare professionals (HCPs) tends to be negative (Fleming & Szumukler, 1992)
- HCPs perception of their patient can influence the care they provide (Colli et al., 2015)
- Research suggests many variables can influence the ways in which HCP may view their patient with an ED (Ryu, Hamilton, & Tarrant, 2022)
- Poor staff retention is a concern in the care of this patient population (Hage et al., 2021)

Rationale

- We aim to review the current understanding of the experiences, perceptions, and challenges of (HCPs) who work with patients in ED settings, and build off work by Seah et al. (2017)

Methods

Research Questions

1. What experiences, perceptions, or challenges do HCPs working in this setting describe?
2. What attitudes towards these patients do HCPs describe?
3. What is the influence of factors such as level of training or specialty on reported experiences, challenges, or attitudes?
4. What supports are identified as desirable for these HCPs?
5. What tools have been previously used to study this population?

Inclusion & Exclusion Criteria

- This review considered peer-reviewed articles published in the English language from January 2016 to April 2022
- Studies related to HCPs providing care for EDs that met the search criteria were considered
- Studies that combined EDs with another psychiatric or medical condition were excluded

Search Strategy

- CINAHL, MEDLINE, and PsychINFO databases were utilized
- Keywords and subject headings related to ED's, healthcare professionals, and experiences, perceptions, or challenges were generated and combined using Boolean operators
- Covidence was used to allow for screening of titles, abstracts, and full-texts using multiple verifiers

Findings

Identification & Screening

Potentially relevant records identified through Ovid Medline, PsycINFO, and CINAHL selected for Title/Abstract screening (n = 1,495)

Records excluded for not meeting inclusion/exclusion criteria (n = 1,478)

Eligibility

Articles selected for full-text review (n = 17)

Figure 1. Details of study screening and articles selected for review. Ongoing consultation with a librarian to confirm search strategy and PRISMA guideline suitability will occur, and Figure 1 will be updated accordingly.

Discussion

- Initial overview of literature reveals consistency in the experiences, perceptions, and challenges of this population as compared to previous work
- Expansion of previous findings in areas such as:
 - Student experiences
 - Impact of the Sars-Cov-2 pandemic
 - Further characterization of ethical issues faced by this population
- The completion of this scoping review will allow for a better understanding of the current state of research