

# Interpretation of experience in nursing practice:

## Focus on the narratives of experienced nurses

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This study examined the way in which nurses with years of experience give meaning to their practical experience and how such experience relates to their continued work in nursing.

Subjects were three nurses with more than 20 years' experience. I obtained information on their experience through a semi-structured interview, on the basis of which I described their nursing experience and examined what supported their nursing practice.

Results revealed that depending on the interaction that occurred between the nurses and their patients, as well as the meaning ascribed to it, a new direction was set for subsequent nursing practice, and that previous practice was retrospectively supported by subsequent practice as well. Each involvement with patients drew the nurses further into the world of nursing, and their respective views of nursing were developed through their experience with patients. Furthermore, their views of nursing were supported by sharing them with other nurses. In this manner, the nurses' experience constituted their nursing practice, which was supported and influenced by their patients' conditions.