

Strategies ID'd for integration of nurse practitioners into ICUs

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(HealthDay)—Key strategies for successful integration of nurse

practitioners into intensive care units (ICUs) include defining their role and providing orientation options, as well as support and training, according to an article published in the December issue of *Critical Care Nurse*.

Shari Simone, D.N.P., from the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, and colleagues discuss the challenges associated with successful integration of nurse practitioners into adult and pediatric general and specialty ICUs.

The authors note that strategic planning is needed to define critical aspects of the care delivery model before hiring nurse practitioners. In addition, a comprehensive program should be developed for integration and training of nurses, and a plan should be created for implementation of the program. To ensure successful orientation of nurse practitioners, key strategies that should be employed include defining and implementing their role; providing orientation options; and offering support and training for novices. In order to fully realize the contribution of these nurses, the importance of appropriate role utilization, need for comprehensive [training](#), and commitment to continued professional development beyond orientation should be considered.

"Ensuring successful integration of nurse practitioners into ICUs requires [strategic planning](#) to define the role of nurse practitioners in the particular ICU setting, recruit, hire, integrate into the ICU, train, and provide support to [nurse practitioners](#) throughout this transition," the authors write.

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