

BACKGROUND

Research is limited on the impact of single-rooms on healthcare quality and safety in Ireland. A number of studies elsewhere have evaluated the advantages and disadvantages of single rooms for patients, and based on these studies, a number of key recommendations have been made.

However little research has showcased any conclusive evidence for the advantages and disadvantages of single bed wards versus multi bed wards for nursing staff.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this study was to investigate the staffing levels needed to maintain single bed wards and to examine the impact of primarily designing single bed ward hospitals in the future.

METHODS

A search strategy was designed with the use of CINHAL headings and search engines such as EBSCO, Cochrane and google scholar.

Google and Google scholar (n=8), EBSCO (CINAHL and Medline) and Cochrane were searched (Nov 2006 – Nov 2017) through a combination of search terms divided into 3 main concepts:

Search One	"hospital design", "healthcare facility design", "acute care hospital planning", "hospital management", "Ward Design", "Hospital Construction", "Evidence-based design", "physical environment", "healthcare environments", "hospital environment", "hospital setting"
Search Two	"Nursing Efficiency in hospitals", "Nursing Requirements", "Nursing Shortage", "Nurse Staff Shortage", "Nursing Manpower", "Cooperative Care", "Nurse Staff Requirements", "Nursing Staff Recruitment", "Healthcare staff", "hours of care", "ratio"
Search Three	"Single-Bed Rooms", "Single accommodation room", "single occupancy rooms", "patient rooms", "isolation rooms", "multi-occupancy rooms", "single-bed room"

RESULTS [1]

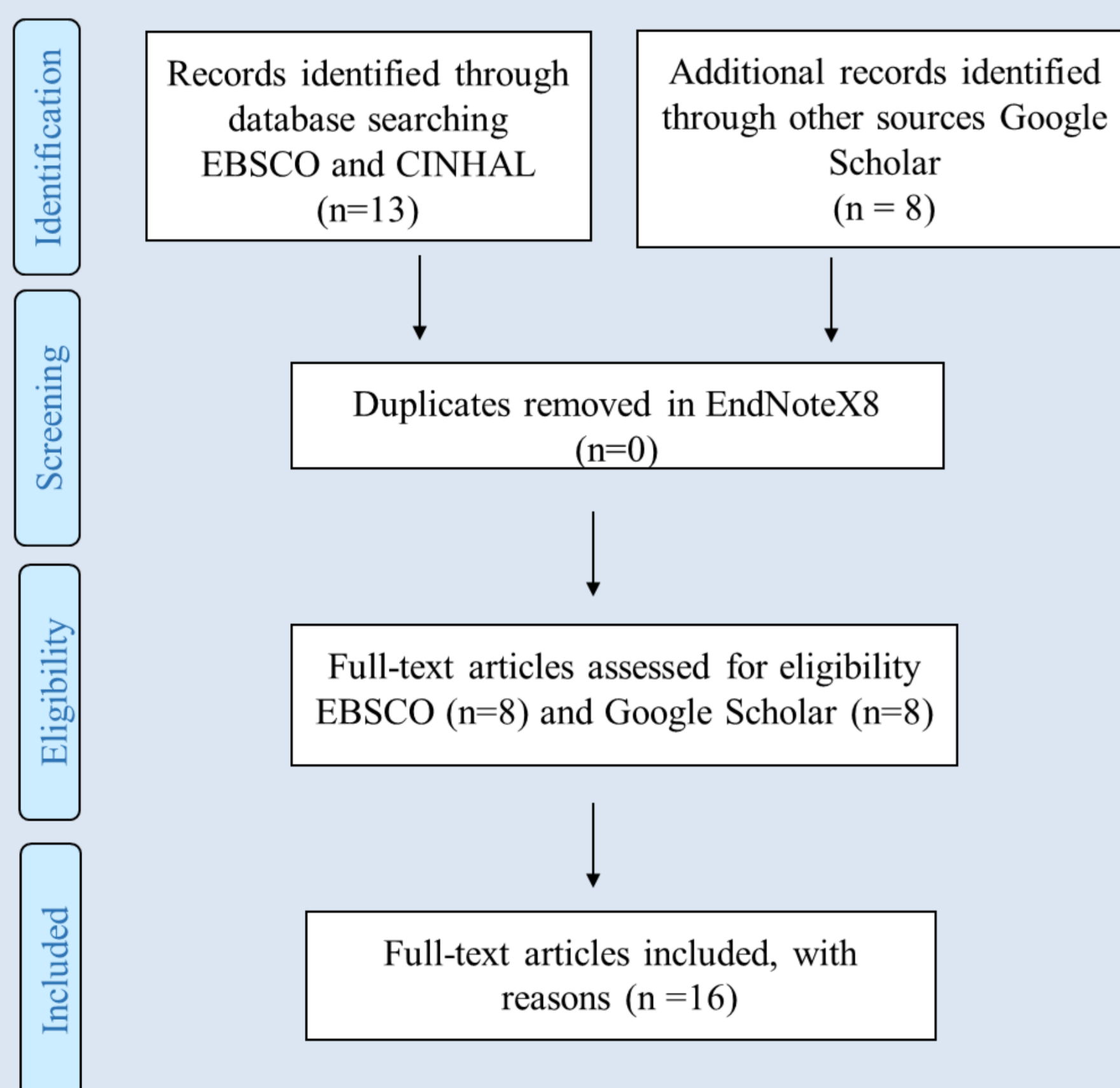


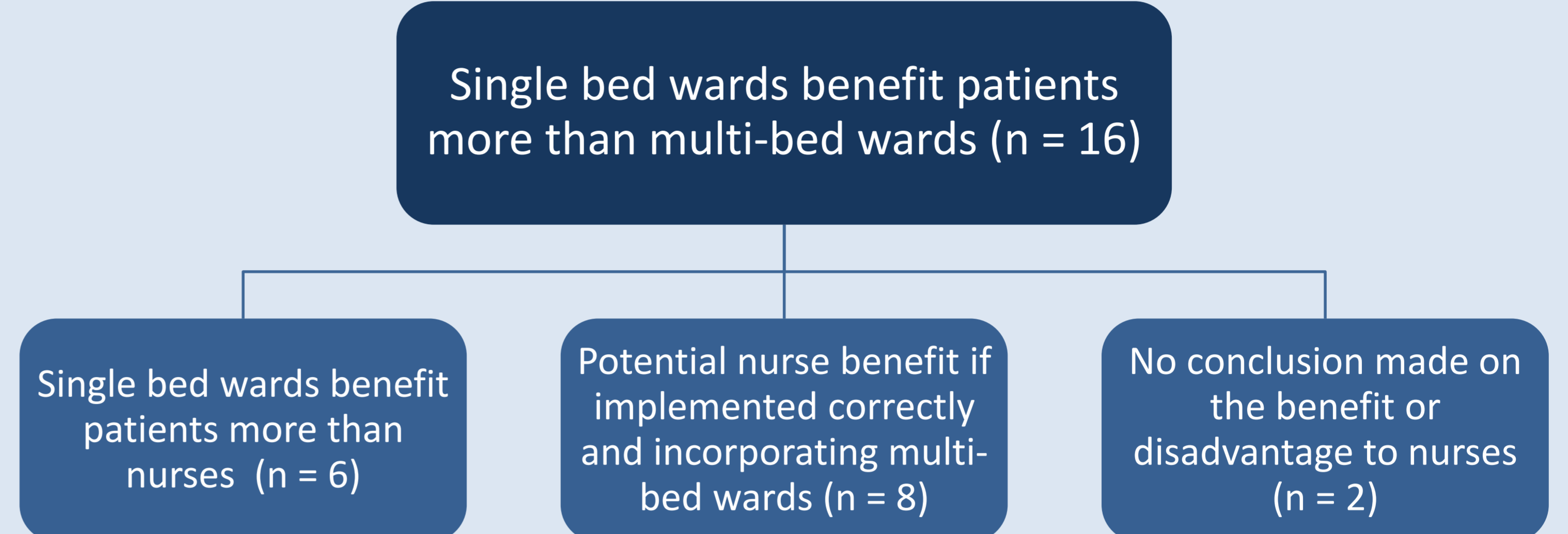
Figure 1: Prism flow chart (Moher, Liberati, Tetzlaff, Altman, 2009)

The papers included for this study focused on an inclusion criteria investigating single bed rooms versus multi bed rooms in relation to nursing staff in hospital settings. However no singular paper dissecting nurses experiences/perspectives were found. All papers extracted involved both patient and nursing staff using either mixed methods or qualitative designs.

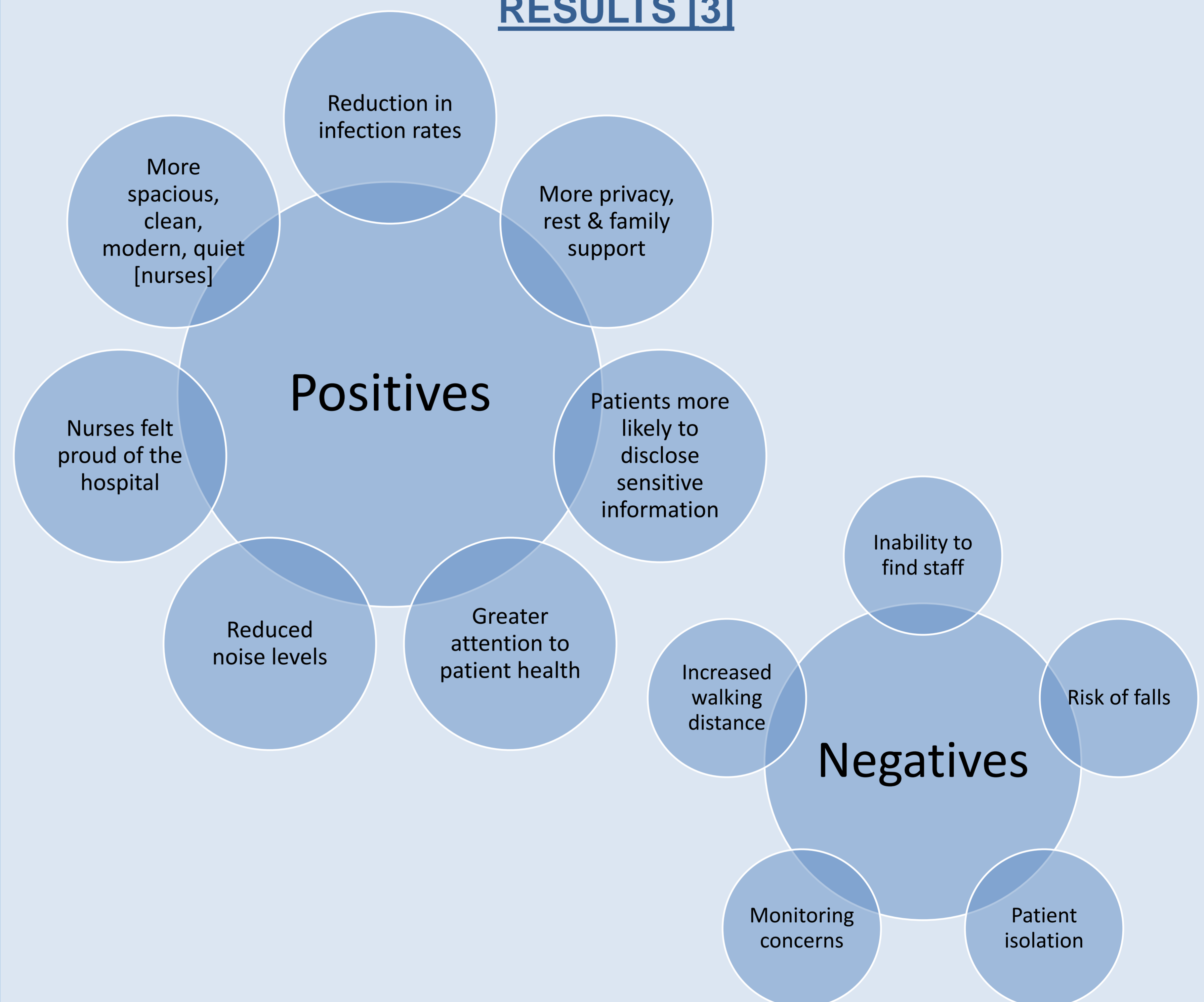
References

- Hurst, K (2006) UK Ward design: Patient dependency nursing workload, staffing and quality – An observational study. *International Journal of Nursing Studies*. 45, 370-381.
- Maben, J., Griffiths, P., Penfold, C., Simon, M., Anderson, J.E., Robert, G., Pizzo, E., Hughes, J., Murrells, T. & Barlon, J (2017) One size fits all? Mixed methods evaluation of the impact of 100% single-room accommodation on staff and patient experience, safety and costs. *BMJ Qual Safe*. 25, 241-256.

RESULTS [2]



RESULTS [3]



DISCUSSION

The literature to date is insufficient to inform designing all new hospital builds with single bed wards only in regard to nursing staff.

Although the benefits of single bed wards to patients in a hospital setting are undisputed and cannot be discounted, Hurst (2006) showed that an increase of staff is needed to enact benefits of single bed wards for nursing staff (Hurst, 2006).

The literature investigated in this review showed that implementing single bed rooms correctly by gaining perspective of senior nursing staff could assist single bed wards becoming advantageous to both patients and nursing staff and improve healthcare for both groups.

It is suggested in the literature that with sufficient planning, the disadvantages of single room accommodation may be somewhat reduced, for example designing wards to incorporate large windows and glazed doors which would aid nurse surveillance and potentially reduce patient feelings of isolation (Maben, 2012).