The authors review current literature on transitional care for patients from the intensive care unit, with a focus on contemporary challenges, problematic clinical practices, and future research directions.

Transition is a “process or period in which something undergoes a change and passes from one state, stage, form, or activity to another.” Ideally, healthcare transitions encompass safe and efficient movements of patients between different sectors or levels of care within the healthcare system and appear to be fundamental in achieving beneficial outcomes for patients. Critically ill patients in the intensive care unit (ICU) often experience multiple transitions as they move through different levels of care. The transfer of ICU patients to intermediate care units and subsequent ongoing provision of care are a daily occurrence in acute care hospitals.

In this article, we define ICU transitional care as...
“An Intensive Care Unit (ICU) is a specially staffed and equipped, separate and self-contained area of a hospital dedicated to the management of patients with life-threatening illnesses, injuries and complications, and monitoring of potentially life-threatening conditions. It provides special expertise and facilities for support of vital functions and uses the skills of medical, nursing and other personnel experienced in the management of these problems.”


Transitional care encompasses a broad range of services and environments designed to promote the safe and timely passage of patients between levels of health care and across care settings. High-quality transitional care is especially important for older adults with multiple chronic conditions and. Care (Intensive care) provides a highly competent staff and advance equipment for the support to the patient who has been terminally ill. It required close monitoring and support from advance equipment. care is often used as if its meaning is clear, but it conveys little meaning other than being about care. that is “in between.” (Melis, R. J. F., Olde Rikkert, M. G. M., Parker, S. G., & van Eijken, M. I. J. 2004). This unit.

Theoretical Framework.