

# A qualitative study of nurses' perceptions of caring for patients with Covid-19

<b>Submission date</b> 20/08/2023	<b>Recruitment status</b> No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 04/09/2023	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 04/09/2023	<b>Condition category</b> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

This study was a study of nurses working at a specific medical center in the USA to understand the nurses' perceptions and experiences of caring for adult patients with Covid-19 at the beginning of the pandemic in the USA. The purpose of the study was to understand the nurses' perception of caring for patients with Covid-19, over a period of about one year.

### Who can participate?

Nurses caring for hospitalized adults with Covid-19 at a specific facility were approached, to participate in the study. Nurses were selected by chance, based on the specialized unit where they normally worked.

### What does the study involve?

Private interviews were held with 41 nurses at three time points: the beginning of the pandemic, about six to nine months later, and again at about six months later. Interviews were taped and transcribed, with formal consent from each participant. Transcripts of the interviews were examined for common statements and feelings. A summary and discussion of the interviews were conducted and verified using established techniques. Nurses specializing in research (PhD prepared) conducted the interviews and checked the analysis. Two other nurses on the team had a masters in nursing or a doctorate in nursing practice.

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

None

### Where is the study run from?

Atlantic Health System/Morristown Medical Center (USA)

### When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

May 2020 to December 2022

### Who is funding the study?

Atlantic Health System/Morristown Medical Center (USA)

Who is the main contact?

Mildred Ortu Kowalski, PhD, RN, NE-BC, Mildred.Kowalski@atlantichhealth.org

## Contact information

### Type(s)

Principal Investigator

### Contact name

Dr Mildred Kowalski

### ORCID ID

<http://orcid.org/0000-0002-0079-9102>

### Contact details

14 Newman Place  
East Hanover  
United States of America  
07936  
+1 9735159636  
m\_ortu@usa.net

## Additional identifiers

### EudraCT/CTIS number

Nil known

### IRAS number

### ClinicalTrials.gov number

Nil known

### Secondary identifying numbers

IRB 1605198

## Study information

### Scientific Title

A longitudinal study of forty-one clinical nurses caring for hospitalized adults with Covid-19 during March-April 2020

### Acronym

QualNrsC19

### Study objectives

This qualitative study explored the perceptions of nurses, working in a single institution, caring for patients with Covid-19 early in the pandemic to understand what compelled nurses to come to work during the pandemic.

**Ethics approval required**

Ethics approval required

**Ethics approval(s)**

Approved 22/05/2020, Atlantic Health System Institutional Review Board (475 South Street, Morristown, 07960, United States of America; +1 973 660 3128; Anita.Richards@atlantichealth.org), ref: IRB 1605198

**Study design**

Qualitative randomized longitudinal study

**Primary study design**

Observational

**Secondary study design**

Longitudinal study

**Study setting(s)**

Hospital

**Study type(s)**

Other

**Participant information sheet**

Not available in web format, please use the contact details to request a patient information sheet.

**Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Nurses caring for patients with Covid-19 in a single institution.

**Interventions**

Nurses working a minimum of 12 hours during the initial peak of the pandemic in the USA were interviewed up to three times to explore perceptions of caring for adult patients with Covid-19. Randomization was conducted to include nurses from a variety of specialty units.

**Intervention Type**

Other

**Primary outcome measure**

Transcripts of interviews (Phase 1, 2, 3) were analyzed for common themes. Data were analyzed for themes that changed over time. A phenomenological methodology was used to analyze the interviews conducted to explore perceptions of nurses caring for adult patients during the onset of the pandemic in New Jersey, USA. An analysis of professional self-image, memories, communication and advice to others were explored over three individual interviews. Philosophical linkages were explored.

**Secondary outcome measures**

There are no secondary outcome measures.

**Overall study start date**

22/05/2020

**Completion date**

27/12/2022

## Eligibility

**Key inclusion criteria**

1. Registered nurses employed by Morristown Medical Center (MMC), who worked at least 12 hours during the peak of the pandemic at MMC
2. Consenting individuals
3. Willing to participate in three taped interviews over a period of approximately nine - 12 months.

**Participant type(s)**

Health professional, Employee, Other

**Age group**

Adult

**Lower age limit**

18 Years

**Upper age limit**

80 Years

**Sex**

Both

**Target number of participants**

40

**Total final enrolment**

41

**Key exclusion criteria**

1. Non-consenting individuals
2. Individuals who are not nurses
3. Nurses not caring for patients hospitalized at the designated medical center
4. Nurses not caring for patients with Covid-19 at least 12 hours during the designated time period

**Date of first enrolment**

23/05/2020

**Date of final enrolment**

04/11/2020

## Locations

**Countries of recruitment**

United States of America

**Study participating centre**

Atlantic Health System/Morristown Medical Center

100 Madison Avenue

Morristown

United States of America

07960

## Sponsor information

**Organisation**

Atlantic Health System/Morristown Medical Center

**Sponsor details**

100 Madison Avenue

Morristown

United States of America

07960

+1 9739714239

Anita.Richards@atlanticealth.org

**Sponsor type**

Hospital/treatment centre

**Website**

<https://www.atlanticealth.org/locations/hospitals/morristown-medical-center.html>

## Funder(s)

**Funder type**

Hospital/treatment centre

**Funder Name**

The Foundation for Morristown Medical Center

## Results and Publications

**Publication and dissemination plan**

Planned publication in a high-impact peer-reviewed journal

**Intention to publish date**

31/12/2023

**Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan**

Individual participant data is not expected to be made available as a matter of confidentiality in agreement with consenting parties.

**IPD sharing plan summary**

Not expected to be made available