

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

Submission date 20/08/2023	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 04/09/2023	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 04/09/2023	Condition category 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

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Additional identifiers

Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)

Nil known

ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)

Nil known

Protocol serial number

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@atlanticealth.org), ref: IRB 1605198

Study design

Qualitative randomized longitudinal study

Primary study design

Observational

Study type(s)

Other

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(s)

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.

Key secondary outcome(s)

There are no secondary outcome measures.

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

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 years

Upper age limit

80 years

Sex

All

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

Funder(s)**Funder type**

Hospital/treatment centre

Funder Name

The Foundation for Morristown Medical Center

Results and Publications**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

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes