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

**Submission date**
20/08/2023

**Recruitment status**
No longer recruiting

**Registration date**
04/09/2023

**Overall study status**
Completed

**Last Edited**
04/09/2023

**Condition category**
Other

[ ] Prospectively registered
[ ] Protocol
[ ] Statistical analysis plan
[ ] Results
[ ] Individual participant data
[ ] 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, overr 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@atlantichealth.org

# Contact information

### Type(s)
Principal investigator

### Contact name
Dr Mildred Kowalski

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# Additional identifiers

### Protocol serial number
IRB 1605198

# Study information

### Scientific Title
A longitudinal study of forty-one clincial nurses caring for hospitlaized 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

### Primary study design
Observational

### Study design
Qualitative randomized longitudinal study

### 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