

### 3.14 Intensive Care nurses experiences of end of life care during the Covid-19 pandemic: a descriptive qualitative study.

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**Background:** Intensive Care Nurses play a vital role in providing end-of-life care. The Covid-19 pandemic has profoundly and unprecedentedly affected end-of-life care. With the dramatic rise in patients requiring Intensive Care supports, frontline Intensive Care Nurses faced various challenges during this period. **Methods:** Semi-structured interviews were conducted with twelve staff nurses working in an Intensive Care Unit from a teaching hospital in the North West of Ireland. The data was subsequently analysed using Braun and Clarke's reflective thematic analysis. The study employed a descriptive qualitative design. **Results:** A total of four core themes were identified; Family matters, We are all in this together... or are we?, Moral Compass and Dignity in dying. **Conclusions:** The findings highlight the value and significance of family presence during end-of-life and the effect being present has on the grieving process. Nurses demonstrated their willingness and motivation to aid in "a good death" but indicated a strong need for teamwork within the multidisciplinary team to achieve this. It is clear from this study that restrictions around end-of-life care during the Covid-19 pandemic had an emotional effect on staff and how they delivered end-of-life care during this period. **Key words:** Critical Care, end-of-life, Covid-19 pandemic. **Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.