

## EXPLORING THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF CRITICAL CARE NURSES IN PROVIDING CARE FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

The environment of an intensive care unit (ICU) has been recognized as a very stressful, high-tech, fast paced and emotionally charged atmosphere. The aim of the current study was to explore the lived experience of critical care nurses in providing care for terminally ill patients. Hermeneutic phenomenological design was used for the current study. Different ICUs at El Manila University Hospital (unit 1, 2, 3) and intensive care unit at the National Cancer Institute. A purposeful sample was used in the current study. In the current study, the researcher reached the saturation point after 17 participants. Three tools were utilized for data collection: Personal background questionnaire; The lived experience of critical care nurses in providing care for terminally ill patients was assessed by semi-structured interview that included eight open ended questions; Audio tape recording as an instrument. The current study revealed that more than half (58.82%) of the participants in the age group (28-37), the majority (70.58%) were female nurses. More than half of these nurses (52.94%) had a Technical Nursing Institute. The findings of the current study identified four main themes in exploring the lived experiences of critical care nurses in providing care for terminally ill patients: (I) Feelings about caring for terminally ill patients; (II) Providing the best care; (III) Coping; (IV) Unforgettable cases.

**KEYWORDS:** Critical Care, Experience, Phenomenological, Terminally