



Title: Meeting the spiritual needs of patients in Intensive Care Units.

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Considering the comprehension of wholeness as essential for nursing practice, intensive therapy nurses must address spiritual issues. The main **objective** of this study was to investigate the care provided by nurses in intensive care units regarding the spiritual dimension. **Methodology-** qualitative study with 15 nurses who work at Intensive Care Units at public and private hospitals in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Ten focal groups were conducted to produce the data, which was analyzed according with Bardin's content analysis method. **Results-** three categories emerged: "the ICU caring space", "the meaning of being a nurse in ICUs" and "the caring dimension in ICUs". A second level of analysis took place, guided by Jean Watson Clinical Caritas Process. **Conclusion-** It was concluded that nurses who work at ICUs are immersed in a heavily technological environment and the main focus is on the body dimension. Nevertheless, when they perceive the patients' spiritual needs, they can foster hope and faith so as to relief the suffering caused by the disease and intensive care hospitalization processes. The study revealed that they are capable of integrating the human experience as they care for their patients.

Key-words: Nursing. Nursing Care. Intensive Care Unit. Spirituality. Nursing Theory.

Biography

Noemi Duque dos Santos has completed her Master in 2015 from Rio de Janeiro State University. She is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse at National Cardiology Institute in Rio de Janeiro (INC), where works in the care of critical patients and preceptorship in Nursing Residency Program in Medical and Surgical Clinics.

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