

Background

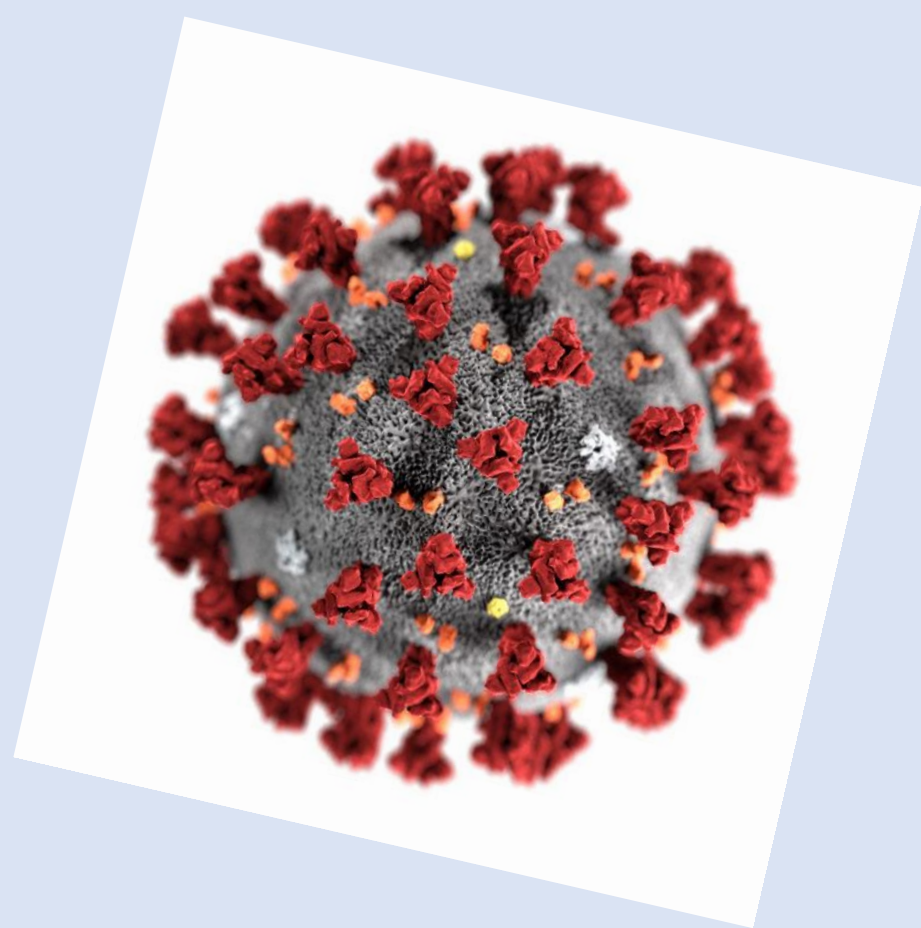
- When the COVID-19 Pandemic hit the US in January 2020, the rate of infections and resulting hospitalizations overwhelmed hospital resources including nursing staff.
- To care for the vast number of patients, COVID-19 units were designed.
- To provide care for the surge of patients, nurses were deployed from their clinical specialty roles to become Medical-Surgical and Critical Care Nurses.

Purpose

- This purpose of this qualitative study using a phenomenological approach was to describe the experiences of nurses who were deployed from their clinical specialty role during the pandemic to care for COVID-19 patients.
- Deployed being defined as being assigned to a new unit/department and/or new/different patient population.
- The nurses were practicing in both an area and time of uncertainty during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Methodology

- This study was approved by the Northwell Health IRB.
- The Study took place at Huntington Hospital
 - A non-profit, 371 bed, level III trauma center
 - Located in the town of Huntington on Long Island
 - 4-time recipient of Magnet ® Designation
- Purposive Sampling was done as potential subjects were the nurses deployed from their clinical specialty role to become Medical Surgical and Critical Care Nurses.
- Inclusion Criteria was Nurses working full time and part time in the following areas that were deployed greater than 1 week:
 - Cath Lab
 - Interventional Radiology
 - PACU
 - EP Lab
 - Obstetrics Department
 - Endoscopy
 - Ambulatory Surgery
 - Operating Room
- 24 question open ended, narrative response survey.
 - Participants instructed to answer in 2-3 sentences.
- Content Analysis by 3-member study team to determine themes and patterns of how the nurses described the experience.
- Theoretical Framework guiding the study was Role Theory.
 - The deployment caused a role change.



Results

- A total of 40 participants
- The average nurse participant was 52 years old, full-time employee, married with children at home, BSN, 25 years of experience with an average of 8 years on their respective unit.
- Most nurses were relocated to a new unit, learning of the deployment the day being deployed with the average deployment lasting 2 months.
- Majority did not receive orientation, had never been deployed, and did not have previous pandemic experience.
- Consistent themes identified
 - Fear of the virus and spreading to family
 - Unpreparedness and the need for greater support and education on caring for critically ill patients.
 - Consistent acknowledgement of peer support and teamwork.
- Quotes
 - “No one was prepared. That’s like asking if we were prepared for 9/11.”
 - “The positive experience was how the staff became one to help fight this pandemic.”
 - “We will never be the same.”

Implications for Practice

- Education
 - Patient Management
 - Medication Administration
 - Ventilator Management
 - Prone Patients
- Administration
 - Communication
 - Frequent and transparent
 - Leadership
 - Calm yet optimistic, visible, approachable, supportive, and empathetic
 - Decision Making
 - Rapid yet deliberate

DEPLOYED NURSES

Join the Huntington COVID-19 Research Study for NURSES who were deployed to care for COVID-19 patients

Enrollment is limited to nurses who were deployed longer than 1 week and work in the following units:

1. Cath Lab
2. PACU
3. EP Lab
4. Obstetrics (Mother/baby)
5. Endoscopy
6. ASU
7. Operating Room
8. IR

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Visit link for details and enrollment
<https://is.gd/nursedeploymentstudy>

Version: 7/27/2020

References

Scan QR code for references

