



**BABCOCK**  
**UNIVERSITY**

ILISHAN-REMO, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

# **COLLEGE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES**

## **2022/2023 PhD Thesis Abstract**

### **Department of Nursing Science**

**RFN: Olaolorunpo OLORUNFEMI**

**RD: Nursing Science**

**RS: Nursing Sciences**

**RE: olaolorunfemi@yahoo.com**

**RAE: olorunfemi0226@pg.babcock.edu.ng**

**RP: 08034694675**

**RT: Lived Experience of Nurses and Family Caregivers of Critically Ill Patients  
Sustained by Health Care Technologies in Benin-City, Nigeria**

**MS: Dr. Chinomzo U. NWOZICHI**

**ME: nwozichichinomso@gmail.com**

**SP: +15129279521**

**CS: Nil**

**CE: Nil**

**CP: Nil**

**AB:** The use of technologies in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) by nurses to care for persons with critically illnesses is becoming more common around the world. Literature revealed that, family caregivers believed that nurses focused on the use of machines rather than recognizing them as part of the caregiving team. This could result in negative experiences for both nurses and family caregivers. Studies show that these technologies improve life expectancy and quality of life, but, there is limited evidence on how technology adoption impacts the lives of both family caregivers and nurses. Hence, this study explored the lived experiences of nurses and family caregivers of critically ill patients supported by healthcare technology.

The study employed hermeneutic phenomenological design to examine the lived experiences of family caregivers and ICU nurses caring for critically ill patients at University of Benin Teaching Hospital. Data were collected from July 2022 to December 2022. A purposive sampling technique was used to select 20 participants out of 29; nurses (n = 10), family caregivers (n = 10). Tape recording was use for in-depth Interviews. The Data collection ended with data saturation. The trustworthiness of the process such as credibility, transferability, Confirmability, and dependability were ensured. Data were analyzed using Paul Ricoeur's Theory of Interpretation and Nvivo software for data management.

The findings of the study revealed that 90% of the nurses were female and had worked in ICU for more than 4 years, whereas family caregivers had stayed for at least one month in the unit.

Five themes emerged from the analysed data from the nurses' experiences with technological care namely: "ICU is a stage and nurses are the players"; "Nursing to a peaceful death"; "Hope as ingredient of caring"; "Maintaining healthy relationship", and "Exhibiting emotional intelligence". Furthermore, three themes emerged from the lived experience of the family caregivers: "Journeying towards the unknown"; "Technological care is an ecosystem" and "Keeping hope alive". The key themes indicated that ICU is a complex unit that is characterized with fear and worries associated with having to operate various health gadgets. They also show how nurses struggle to balance their attention between technology-based care and family member. On the other hand, the family caregivers in ICU were utterly unsatisfied with the care, which they attributed to a lack of motivation caused by frequent death, financial burden, and the hospital's inability to provide their fundamental needs.

The study concluded that lived experience of nurses and family caregivers showed a conflict of interest which is responsible for the existing complex environment in ICU. It is recommended that ICU nurses require continuous learning in operating various health gadgets without fear or anxiety. They must also strengthen their ability to include family caregivers in their care plan; this will help nurses to balance their attention between technology-based care and family member.

**Keywords:** Critical illness, Critically ill Patient, Family caregivers, ICU nurses, Lived experience, Technology-based care

**Word Count:** 467

*Abbreviations: RFN: Researcher's Full Name, RD: Researcher's Department, RS: Researcher's School, RE: Researcher's Email, RAE: Researcher's Alternate Email, RP: Researcher's Phone Contact, RT: Registered Title, MS: Main Supervisor, ME: Main Supervisor's E-mail Address, SP: Main Supervisor's Phone Contact, CS: Co-Supervisor, CE: Co-Supervisor's E-mail Address, CP: Co-Supervisor's Phone Contact, AB: Abstract*

**Suggested Citation:** Olorunfemi, O., and Nwozichi, C. 2023. Lived Experience of Nurses and Family Caregivers of Critically Ill Patients Sustained by Health Care Technologies in Benin-City, Nigeria. PhD Thesis Abstract, College of Postgraduate Studies, Babcock University. [https://doi.org/10.61867/pcub.1\(5\).185](https://doi.org/10.61867/pcub.1(5).185)