

Lessons and needs arising from experienced moral stress and moral dilemmas at the ICU during the COVID-19 pandemic

No registrations found.

Ethical review	Positive opinion
Status	Recruitment stopped
Health condition type	-
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON26256

Source

NTR

Brief title

TBA

Health condition

COVID-19; moral stress

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Amsterdam UMC - Location AMC

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: No funding needed.

Intervention

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

The extensive mapping of the moral dilemmas and moral issues that employees at the

Intensive Care of the Amsterdam UMC - Location AMC had to deal with during the first wave of the COVID-19 crisis.

Secondary outcome

1. What is the mental strain and moral stress experienced between March-May 2020?
2. What moral questions and dilemmas were there? Which values were central and which values were under pressure?
3. What was learned in dealing with moral stress and moral issues?
 - a. What (didn't) help(ed) in dealing with moral stress and moral dilemmas?
 - b. What needs did one have when dealing with moral dilemmas and moral stress?
4. Are there differences with regard to these questions between professional groups (e.g. nurses, nurses in training, senior house officers, specialist registrars and medical specialists)?

Study description

Background summary

During the first part of the Corona crisis a lot was asked of care workers at the Intensive Cares in the Netherlands. Some were forced to perform tasks in which they felt less competent, while others were expected to take on a more supervisory role than that for which they were initially trained.

In addition, this was accompanied by a high workload, extra physical strain due to having to wear PPE and not being able to perform normal tasks such as family contact. All this has led to employees of the ICUs being confronted with moral issues and dilemmas. Some of these were new, other dilemmas are of all times but were magnified in this context. Research has already been done, or is being done, into work stress and psycho-social stress, but no specific attention has been paid to the moral dilemmas, the moral stress and how to deal with it.

The importance of investigating lessons and needs as a result of experiencing moral stress and moral dilemmas during this pandemic is great. Failure to pay sufficient attention to moral stress brings with it risks such as symptoms of guilt, shame, existential or moral conflict, loss of trust in the good, moral detachment and/or moral disorientation.

Until now, it is unknown what moral issues Dutch ICU staff faced during the Corona crisis and what degree of moral stress this caused. In addition, not all moral issues and moral dilemmas will automatically lead to stress. Experiencing moral stress and moral dilemmas can also be an incentive to learn both positive and negative lessons together.

It is important to take a critical look at the lessons learned and especially the needs, in order to recognize any bottlenecks in time and to be able to provide good care for our own employees and colleagues. Evaluation of, among other things, the support offered to care professionals can provide valuable insights.

Study objective

Employees of the ICU experienced more moral issues and moral dilemmas during the first

wave of COVID-19.

There are differences in experienced moral issues and dilemmas between professions (e.g. doctor vs. nurse).

Study design

First email regarding questionnaire send beginning of October 2020, a reminder was send at the end of October 2020. No reminders were send after because of the start of the second wave.

Contacts

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Eligibility criteria

Inclusion criteria

All employees of medical disciplines including senior house officers, specialist registrars and medical specialists, nurses (in training) and nurse anesthetists (in training) who worked in the Intensive Care departments of the Amsterdam UMC - Location AMC at the time of the start of the first wave of the COVID-19 crisis.

Exclusion criteria

Unwillingness to fill in the anonymous questionnaire

Study design

Design

Study type:	Observational non invasive
Intervention model:	Other
Allocation:	Non controlled trial
Masking:	Single blinded (masking used)
Control:	N/A , unknown

Recruitment

NL	
Recruitment status:	Recruitment stopped
Start date (anticipated):	01-08-2020
Enrollment:	200
Type:	Actual

IPD sharing statement

Plan to share IPD: Undecided

Ethics review

Positive opinion	
Date:	06-01-2021
Application type:	First submission

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

In other registers

Register	ID
NTR-new	NL9177
Other	METC AMC : W20_361 # 20.401

Study results