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Experiences of Irish advanced nurse practitioners delivering nursing care during the COVID-19 pandemic

David Delaney

University Hospital Limerick, Ireland

The objective of this research was to explore ANP's experience in the delivery of advanced nursing care to patients and how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the day-to-day work of ANPs as well as gaining an understanding of ANPs' perceptions of how the pandemic has influenced the delivery of care to patients and the personal impact of working as an ANP during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Background: The COVID-19 pandemic has affects healthcare staff and patients worldwide. Many studies have looked at the experiences of nursing staff during the pandemic but very few have examined the experiences of ANPs.

Study design and methods: A qualitative descriptive study was conducted examining the experiences of Irish ANPs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 15 ANP participants. Thematic analysis of interview transcripts was performed using a Castleberry and Nolan's (2008) five-step thematic analysis.

Results: Three themes and four sub-themes were found through thematic interview analysis. These themes were, 1. Adapting to COVID with subthemes fear and anxiety of covid, feeling supported, the advent of telehealth, 2. Impact of redeployment with subtheme not prepared for redeployment, 3. Primary Care and General Practitioners.

Conclusion: The identified themes provided insight into the experiences of Irish advanced nurse practitioners caring for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each theme shed a personal light on the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on the professional working lives of nurses working at an advanced level within Ireland. The finding of this study adds to a growing body of literature on the impact COVID-19 had on nursing. Advanced nurse practitioners are a cohort of nurses who had to adapt to the challenges of COVID-19 which impacted their professional and their personal lives.

Table 1: Themes and sub-themes identified from interview transcripts

Name	Description
Adapting to Covid	Examples of how ANPs adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic
Fear & Anxiety of covid	How fear and anxiety affected ANPs during COVID-19
Feeling supported	ANPs feeling supported in their role during COVID-19
The advent of telehealth	Experiences of telehealth during the covid-19 pandemic
Impact of redeployment	How redeployment impacted ANPs
Not prepared for redeployment	ANPs not feeling prepared for redeployment
Primary Care and General Practitioners	Experiences of ANPs with primary care and general practitioners

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Biography

David Delaney is an advanced nurse practitioners working within critical care in University Hospital Limerick, Ireland. He graduated from the University of Tasmania in Australis with a Bachelor of Science in nursing. There he commenced his nursing career in cardiac care. He joined the Intensive Care Unit in Royal Prince Alfred in Sydney thereafter and has gained experience within St James Hospital Dublin, eventually settling in Limerick. He has completed a graduate diploma in Intensive Care Nursing and recently finished his Master of Science in Advanced Nursing Practice all within the University of Galway. He is passionate about educating nurses, allied health, and medical colleagues on aspects of critical care that can promote patient centered care using evidenced based practice. He also teaches undergraduate and postgraduate students in the University of Limerick, school of nursing and midwifery.

e: david.delaney@ul.ie