

**Abstract**

**Special Article**

**The Conundrum of Caring in Nursing**

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**Abstract**

Caring as a universal human attribute has withstood the test of time. Caring was proven integral and weaved through the profession of nursing as the very foundation upon which the fundamentals and principles of nursing practice are grounded. The environment, political climate, complexities of patient care, escalating nursing workloads and advanced technologies has changed significantly since Florence Nightingale's day and has challenged the practice and genuineness of caring in many regards.

It is possible to surmise that the lack of clarity and visible disagreement between nursing theorists has weakened the importance and necessity of caring in the nursing profession.

However, the construct of caring remains critical to the nursing profession perhaps even more so now than in the past and it is up to us as respectful, compassionate and professional nurses to help ensure that caring in nursing surpasses these turbulent times and remains at the forefront of nursing practice.

**Key words:** nurses, quality of work life, psychometric properties