Learning from the COVID-19 pandemic: A retrospective qualitative synthesis of respiratory nurses’ experiences across the care continuum.

**What is the research and why are we doing it?**

We want to explore respiratory nurses’ experiences, approaches and adaptations to direct respiratory patient care during the COVID-19 pandemic. The nursing voice is often absent in coordinated mass crisis situations, yet respiratory nurses with the experience and expertise they bring are fundamental to the current COVID-19 response. Furthermore, the challenges, learning and adaptions warrant sharing within the respiratory nursing community, the wider nursing and respiratory communities and the NHS, with the potential to improve practice and outcomes for patients in the future.

**What are you being asked to do?**

We are suggesting to respiratory nurses in clinical practice, to keep a private account of their care experiences and care approaches by means of a reflective journal, blog or diary of events, during the time period of the pandemic, for their own purposes. We understand that everyone is busy, therefore it is important that this isn’t too onerous. You could record your experiences once a day or once a week for as long as you want to, and if you wanted a break and then came back to it that would also be fine. It doesn’t matter how much you record as long as you capture your experiences, good and bad. The media you choose to record your experiences on will be a personal choice, this could be paper, electronic or video diaries; likewise shared Blogs may work for you. Keeping a reflective account may help you to process some of your experiences and hopefully will be a positive exercise for you which you may be able to use towards revalidation at a later stage.

**Does this study have ethical approval?**

Due to the speed of the pandemic, it is not possible to seek the necessary ethical approval in advance. Therefore we are asking individuals to keep diaries in the first instance to facilitate reflection and which could be used in future re-validation. Later we will seek and obtain the necessary ethical permissions and at this point we will ask you if you would be prepared to consent to be part of a study and submit your journal for analysis. At this point you will be provided with a fully detailed explanation of the study and be fully informed regarding what you are consenting to before you agree to take part. Reassurance regarding anonymity and confidentiality will be provided in full. The Health Research Ethics Committee at Edge Hill University have advised that this approach is acceptable.

**Who are we?**

We are a group of respiratory research nurses ourselves and members of ARNS (Associations of Respiratory Nurse Specialists) working across primary care, secondary care, community care and academia. We will also be keeping reflective journals.

*For further information please contact:*

Lindsay Welch, Senior Lecturer Adult Nursing, Solent University - Lindsay.Welch@solent.ac.uk

Dr Carol Kelly, Reader in Respiratory Care, Edge Hill University – kellyc@edgehill.ac.uk

Dr Kate Lippiett, Research Fellow, University of Southampton - k.a.lippiett@soton.ac.uk

Dr Nicola Roberts, Senior Lecturer, Glasgow Caledonian University - Nicola.roberts@gcu.ac.uk

Emma Ray, Respiratory Nurse Specialist and Research Fellow Wessex CLAHRC - emma.ray1@outlook.com