

# Nurses are patient advocates and have a voice to champion safe; effective care: An Islamic perspective

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## *Abstract*

**Introduction and background:** Patient advocacy is a central concept for the multinational profession of nursing as it vows to protect a patient's rights and their safety. This research study presents findings which revealed the perceptions of patient advocacy from Muslim intensive care nurses in Saudi Arabia.

**Methods:** The research study employed a qualitative constructivist grounded theory methodology. The participants in the study were 13 Saudi Arabian registered intensive care nurses from an adult critical care setting in a tertiary teaching hospital. To collect data, the researcher utilized semi-structured interviews which were digitally recorded and transcribed verbatim, with an additional data collection strategy of reflective journaling. A reflective journal was provided to all participants in the study. **Results:** The study generated themes and codes which were related to vulnerable patients, and subsequently revealed the core category of Caring critically. This category was represented by 6 inter-related advocacy sub-categories. These sub-categories were essential caring; vulnerable-acy; familial-acy; cultural-acy; religion-acy; and human-acy. The 6 sub-categories generated an Islamic pyramidal model for patient advocacy.

**Conclusions and implications:** The Islamic pyramidal model of patient advocacy can be applied to clinical practice to provide a voice for nurses as patient advocates. In addition, the model can also be