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Moral agency in elder care

This article explores moral conflicts and moral agency in the elder care setting. The study was based on 40 thematic interviews involving nurses and supervisors working in elder care. The interviews were analysed with deductive qualitative content analysis. Hallamaa's model of moral agency was used as the theoretical framework. The key finding of this study is that nurses' moral agency was restrained. Their abilities to set moral goals, make rational moral judgements, and act according to their values were restricted. Hence, elder care organisations need to create sufficient conditions for nurses' moral agency.

Keywords: elder care, moral agency, moral distress, deductive content analysis