



Licensed Nurses in IDF Non-Combat Units: Healthcare Quality Impact During Operation Roaring Lion

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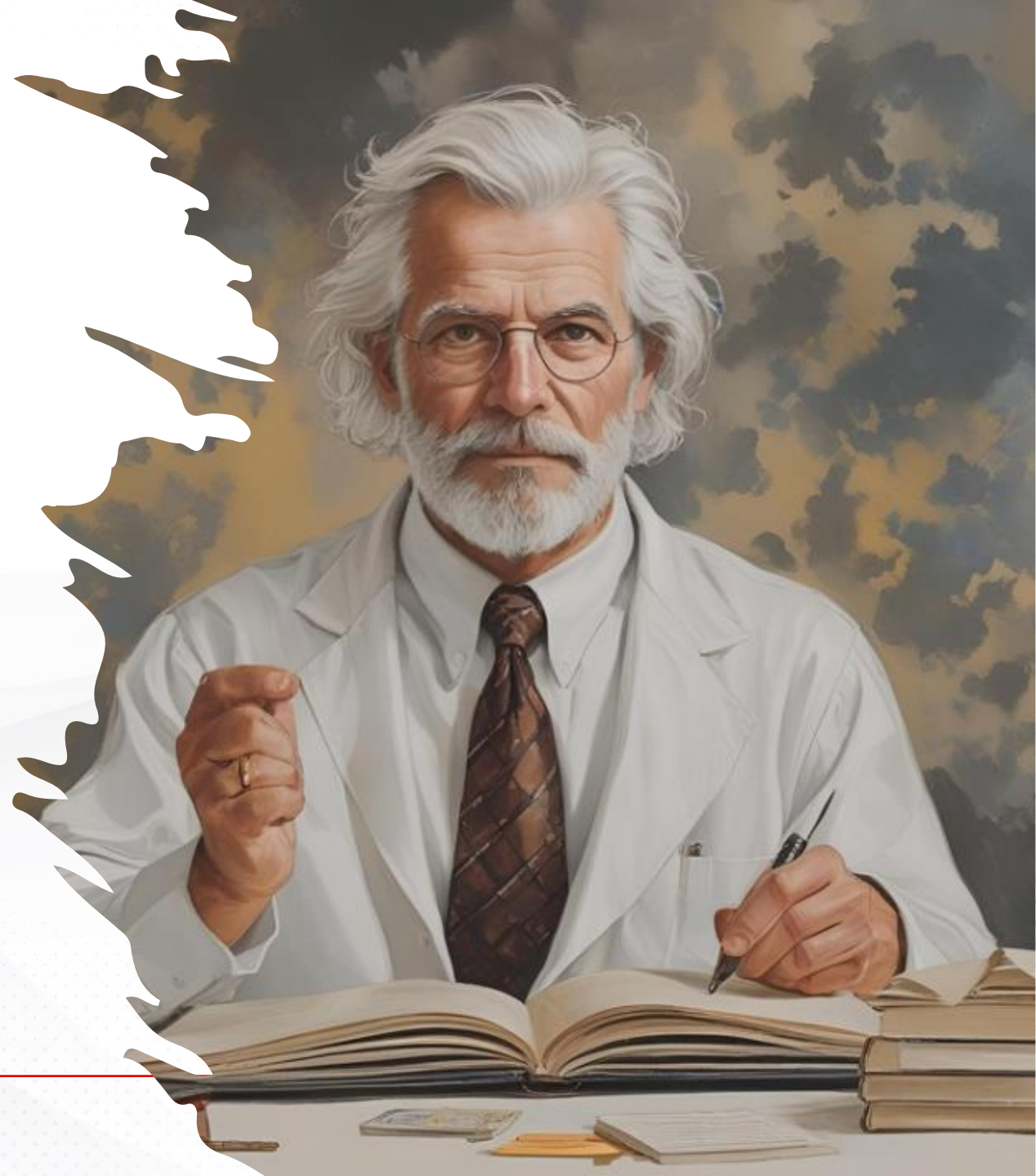


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Disclaimer and Conflict of Interest

- The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest or disclosures relevant to the content of this presentation.
- All research procedures were conducted in accordance with established ethical guidelines and with the approval of the appropriate institutional review board.
- The findings presented are based on the data available at the time of submission and may be subject to further analysis or refinement.
- This presentation represents the views of the authors and not necessarily those of the Israel Defense Forces or affiliated institutions.



Background: The Challenge

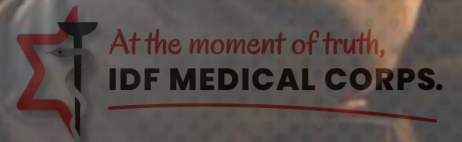
During Operation Roaring Lion, the IDF deployed licensed nurses to non-combat units - a departure from traditional combat-focused medical deployments

The impact of this strategic allocation on healthcare quality had remained **unexplored**



Primary Objective of the Study

To examine how **licensed nurse deployment to non-combat units** affects healthcare quality for IDF service members during active operations



Methods: A Qualitative Study

IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS

THEMATIC ANALYSIS



Study Participants

WHO WE INTERVIEWED

23 IDF soldiers across five role groups

- 4 Physicians
- 6 Medics
- 5 Patients
- 3 Commanding officers
- 5 Deployed nurses



23 Stakeholders interviewed
across multiple unit roles

34–81 Minutes per interview
semi-structured, in-depth

Qualitative design

Thematic analysis of interview transcripts



Key Results

Licensed nurses demonstrably enhanced healthcare quality across multiple dimensions

FIVE MAJOR THEMES IDENTIFIED

Critical Gaps Filled

Chronic disease management, clinical supervision, emergency preparedness, and continuity of care.

Mission-Ready Forces

Medically complex warfighters stay mission-ready, with fewer complications that weaken unit strength.



Five Critical Themes

Chronic-condition management -
Enhanced management of prolonged chronic medical conditions requiring sustained attention

Specialized monitoring -
Close monitoring of NCOs and officers with complex medical histories

Emergency professionalism
- Significant elevation of emergency-team professionalism and response capabilities

Clinic-command support -
Substantial support for clinic command operations and administrative efficiency

Follow-up & coordination -
Systematic improvement in patient follow-up, referral coordination, and monitoring of unusual cases

Chronic-condition management - Enhanced management of prolonged chronic medical conditions requiring sustained attention

"Before the nurses joined our unit, most of our attention was directed toward immediate medical needs. Soldiers with chronic conditions like asthma, diabetes, or hypertension often received fragmented follow-up. **The nurses created continuity of care, monitored these soldiers regularly, adjusted interventions when needed, and made sure no one fell through the cracks.**"

Interviewee number 2



Specialized monitoring - Close monitoring of NCOs and officers with complex medical histories

"Many of our senior NCOs and officers had long-standing medical conditions that required careful follow-up. **The nurses knew their medical histories in depth, monitored them closely, and were often the first to identify subtle changes before they became significant problems.** That level of oversight allowed these key personnel to remain functional throughout the operation."

Interviewee number 20



Emergency professionalism - Significant elevation of emergency-team professionalism and response capabilities

"During periods of heightened tension and frequent alerts, **the nurses served as a critical professional anchor. They guided emergency drills, shared evidence-based practices, and strengthened clinical decision-making under pressure.** As a result, our team's confidence, preparedness, and operational effectiveness improved significantly."

Interviewee number 10



Clinic-command support - Substantial support for clinic command operations and administrative efficiency

"The nurses contributed far beyond direct patient care. **They helped coordinate clinic activities, manage medical documentation, track follow-up requirements, and organize workflows. Their involvement significantly reduced the administrative burden on the clinic leadership** and allowed the command team to focus on operational priorities."

Interviewee number 7



improvement in patient follow-up, referral coordination, and monitoring of unusual cases

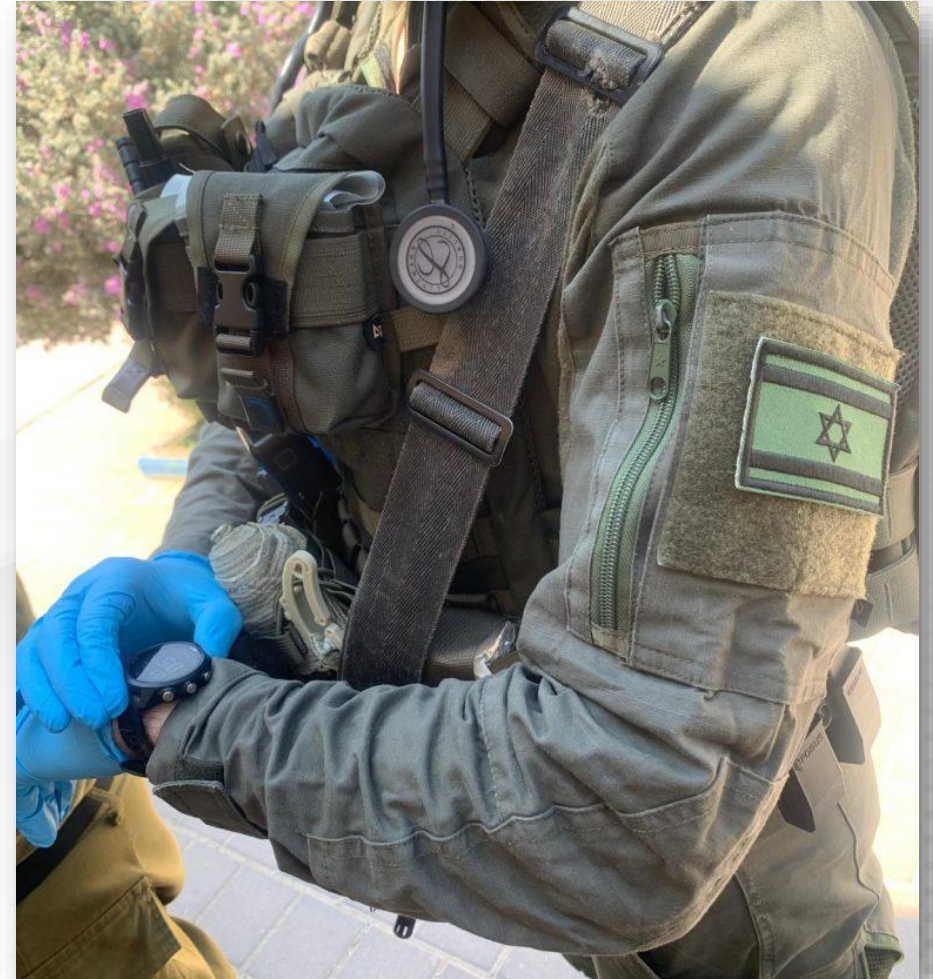
"One of the nurses' greatest contributions was **ensuring continuity after the initial consultation. They systematically followed up on referrals, tracked specialist appointments, and made sure that soldiers actually received the care they needed.** Issues that might previously have been overlooked were monitored until they were fully resolved."

Interviewee number 22



THE BOTTOM LINE

Licensed-nurse deployment to non-combat units demonstrably enhanced healthcare quality - closing critical gaps in chronic care, supervision, emergency readiness, and continuity of care



Recommendations & Implications

Sustain Nurse Integration

Continue deploying licensed nurses to non-combat units as standard practice

Strengthen Chronic Care

Prioritize nurse-led management of complex, prolonged medical conditions

Elevate Emergency Readiness

Leverage nurses to raise emergency-team professionalism and response capability

Improve Follow-up Systems

Expand nurse-led referral coordination and case monitoring to prevent complications



Thank You



At the moment of truth,
IDF MEDICAL CORPS.

