

## INTRODUCTION

### ■ MAID ■

Medical Assistance in Dying.

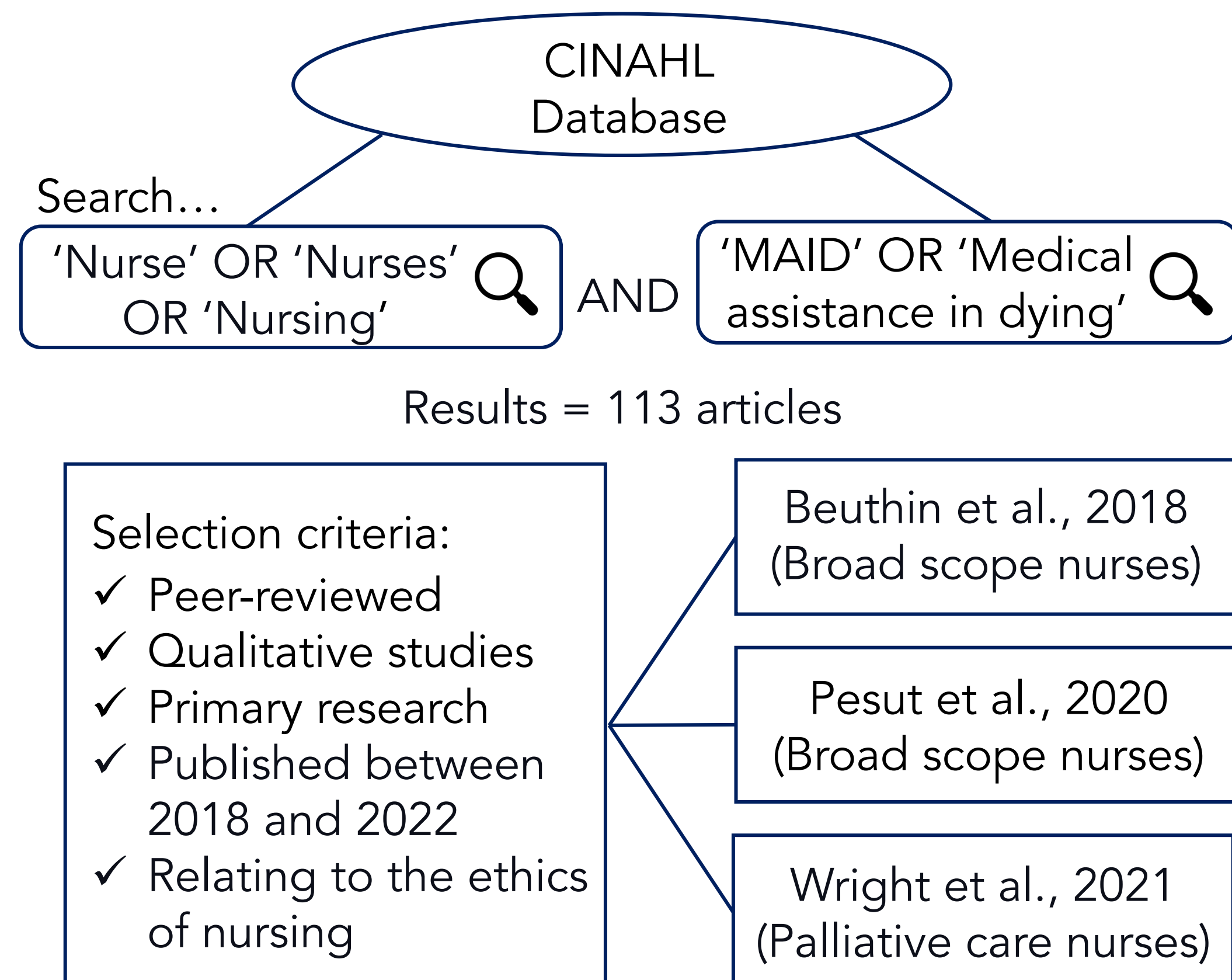
MAID is the legalization of clinician-administered (by a nurse practitioner or physician) or patient-administered death for eligible Canadian adults with a grievous and irremediable medical condition.

This literature review examines the question, what ethical dilemmas do nurses face regarding MAID?

This paper aims to:

- Investigate the ethical stressors nurses face following the legalization of MAID.
- Identify recommendations to mitigate moral distress felt within the nursing community.

## METHODS



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# Ethical Dilemmas and Considerations for Nurses During the MAID Process

## A Literature Review

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## RESULTS

A vast majority of the moral conflicts presented in these articles are **RECTIFIABLE** and have occurred due to misinformation, lack of adequate education, and a lack of collegial support.

### Identified Ethical Dilemmas & Considerations

#### Rectifiable Dilemmas

- Fear of legal/ethical implications
- Uncertainty/distrust
- Emotional influence
- Feeling unsupported
- Feelings of ridicule

#### ■ Rectifiable ■

These are dilemmas that can be resolved with the correct supports and resources.

#### Inherent Values

- Religious/spiritual beliefs
- Cultural values
- Professional scope values
- Personal beliefs

“Deep-seated culture within healthcare”

#### ■ Inherent ■

Values that may cause dilemmas, however, not something that should be altered or resolved.

Description: This table identifies ethical dilemmas that can be resolved compared to individual values that must be respected. The overlapping area, represents a grey area that could be perceived as either rectifiable or inherent values.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Education and clarity of misinformation
- Open conversations to minimize judgement
- Debriefing opportunities
- Research the ethical grey areas, further ethical issues, and additional supports



## CONCLUSION

Ethical dilemmas are present due to personal, social, professional, and religious values. Nurses have the right to conscientiously object to MAID if they feel it does not align with one of these values.

This paper set out to explore the possible ethical dilemmas and considerations nurses face while participating in the MAID process. Rectifiable dilemmas were identified during the research and were found to decrease willingness to participate in the MAID process, regardless of their moral standpoint on the topic. To mitigate these moral tensions, it is recommended that education and training on MAID be implemented. As well as open conversations about ethics and MAID to help ensure nurses feel supported emotionally and professionally.

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