## **ABSTRACT**

Name and surname of the author: Eliška Forgová

**Institution:** Charles University in Prague,

Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové, Department od

Non-mediacal Studies

Title: Placebo and nocebo effect in healthcare: Nursing

knowledge and experiences

**Supervisor:** doc. PhDr. Jana Marie Havigerová, Ph.D.

Number of pages: 86
Number of appendices 3

Year of defense: 2024

**Keywords:** Placebo effect, nocebo effect, knowledge, experience, role

of the nurse

This bachelor's thesis addresses the phenomenon of placebo and nocebo effects in the context of healthcare, with an emphasis on the knowledge and experiences of nurses. The theoretical part of the thesis defines key terms and describes the history of both effects, their theories, and the mechanisms of their action in the human body. Furthermore, it discusses contextual factors influencing the efficacy of these effects, such as the healthcare environment, patient expectations, communication between healthcare providers and patients, social interactions and culture, and other factors. The thesis also provides practical advice for healthcare professionals and analyzes the ethical and legislative aspects associated with the use of placebo and nocebo in healthcare.

The empirical part of the thesis focuses on the research of nurses' knowledge and experiences with placebo and nocebo effects. The research was conducted through a questionnaire survey among nurses working at the University Hospital Hradec Králové in several selected departments. The results show that nurses generally have a good awareness of these phenomena, but their practical experiences and application in clinical practice vary. The thesis concludes with a discussion of the findings and suggestions for improving the education and practice of nurses in this area.

This study contributes to a better understanding of placebo and nocebo effects in healthcare practice and emphasizes the importance of educating nurses on this topic, aiming to improve the quality of care and treatment outcomes for patients.