Summary

Patients suffering from Cystic Fibrosis (CF) pass through many transitions in the course of their disease. The term transition describes the process that bridges from a reality which has been disrupted to a newly constructed or surfacing reality. Despite the obvious significance of various transitions CF patients go through, there is little nursing research on this subject.

In this longitudinal cohort study the following *research question* will be investigated: What does it mean for individuals in five different phases of CF to suffer from this disease and to experience the transitions imposed by its progression? A sample of convenience will be investigated. All CF patients referred to the medical department of the USZ at any stage of their illness are potential participants for this study. Depending on the phase of the illness trajectory within which they find themselves, they will be allocated to one of five cohorts. Because of the state of the art, the wide research question and the heterogeneous sample an inductive, minimally structured, narrative research approach will be used. In each interview the data will be collected by a combination of a few standardised questions and open conversations. The analysis of the interview transcripts follows the recommendations of hermeneutic phenomenology which results in descriptive theory.

The findings will inform nurses and other carers as to how they can be with their CF patients – rather than just what they can do to them – during these transitions. This seems especially important in this population because – as a congenital disease – CF affects their whole life.