**Table 4.2 Themes and subthemes**

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| **Themes** | **Subthemes** |
| 1. Participants’ experience of caring for ventilated women | 1.1 Indications and care of ventilated women  1.2 Care through support from medical practitioners  1.3 Practitioner care through support from ICU nurses  1.4 Coping through support from ICU nurses |
| 1. Participants’ emotional experience | 2.1 Feeling inadequate  2.2 Feeling tension and anxiety  2.3 Feeling exhausted |
| 1. Participants’ competency challenges | 3.1 Inadequate knowledge and training  3.2 Inadequate experience and skills  3.3 Inadequate technical skills |
| 1. Participants’ medical-legal challenges | 4.1 Midwife-related risks  4.2 women-related risks |
| 1. Inter- and intra-professional challenges | 5.1 Challenges to obtain help from ICU nurses  5.2 Medical practitioners’ lack of availability  5.3 Medical practitioners’ lack of competency |
| 1. Healthcare system-related challenges | 6.1 Inadequate equipment and infrastructure  6.2 Inadequate resources |
| 1. Participants’ recommendations for care for ventilated women | 7.1 Capacitation of nurses  7.2 Ensure women access to ICU care |