Purpose: to construct the nursing diagnosis Ocular dryness in adult patients admitted in an intensive care unit.

Method: concept analysis, according to the adaptation of the model proposed by Walker and Avant, operationalized through Scoping Review. The search was based on the Joanna Briggs Institute handbook, divided into three parts. The first occurred in November 2018 in the databases: SCOPUS, Web of Science and ScienceDirect; the second on academic Google® and the third by reverse search according to the references identified in the previously selected searches. The search resulted in 9,297 studies, of which 164 were selected. Five articles were included in the reverse search and thus 169 comprised the sample.

Results: two attributes, 32 antecedents and 12 consequences were identified. A definition has been proposed for the diagnostic: quantitative tear film deficiency, which may alter the maintenance of ocular surface integrity, associated with the presence of clinical signs and / or symptoms with potential eye health impairment; 12 defining characteristics; 12 related factors, seven populations at risk and 13 associated conditions.

Impact: this study directs the development of prevention and evaluation actions of Ocular dryness in an intensive care unit by allowing a diagnostic judgment of this human response.