

Mapping the Social Relations of Home Care Nursing Work

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Background

Despite the increasing demands for home care, there is little evidence in Canada on the organization and outcomes of home care. Further, there are significant gaps in understanding how the institution influences nursing work occurring every day in home care. As nurses are the largest professional care providers in home care and given the increasing demands for home care services there is a need to understand the work of nurses, specifically to identify the social organization of this work.

Aim of the study

The purpose of the research was to investigate the every day work of home care nurses and to identify the social organization and ruling relations of nurses work in home care.

Methods

As a part of my doctoral dissertation, I have used institutional ethnography as an approach to research which directs the inquiry into uncovering the ruling relations impacting nursing work. From the standpoint of nurses, I have used interviews, observations of nurses' work, and collected texts as data to uncover the coordinating features influencing home care nursing work.

Results

Preliminary findings in the initial data analysis reveal the coordinating features of information management and time and identify the organizing work of nurses.

Conclusions and implications

To meet the increasing needs for home care systems insight is needed to improve access and care. Understanding the ruling relations influencing the every day work of nurses is a vital first step in creating change.