

# **The Social Relations of Home Care Nursing Work**

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## **Background**

Despite an increasing demand 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 institutional influences serve to organize everyday nursing work 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 work of home care nurses and to identify the social organization and ruling relations of nurses work in home care.

## **Methods**

Part of a larger exploration, this doctoral study employed institutional ethnography as an approach to inquiry into uncovering the ruling relations impacting nursing work. From the standpoint of nurses, interviews, observations, and collected texts are data used to explicate the coordinating features influencing home care nursing work.

## **Results**

Preliminary findings reveal the coordination of information and time management practices organizing nurses' home care work; work that paradoxically takes both nurses and clients away from actual care in homes.

## **Conclusions and implications**

To meet the increasing needs for home care systems insight is needed to improve access and care. Understanding the invisible but dominant ruling relations influencing, and at times, disorganizing the everyday work of nurses is a vital first step in creating change for what is a growing need for home care nursing.