

The Nature of Coproduced Care between Older People and District Nurses: A Focused Ethnography

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Background

Frail older people receiving care at home can be disenfranchised. Initiatives for choice in care include coproduction despite a lack of understanding of what coproduction means for the care of older people with district nurses. Exploring the nature of coproduced care could illuminate new understandings to enhance care experiences for older people.

Aim of the study

To explore how care was coproduced between frail older people and district nurses, gaining insight into choice in district nursing services for older people. How power and cultures of care shaped experiences for older people in the coproduction of care were considered.

Methods

A focused ethnography explored the nature of coproduced care between four older people and district nurse pairings. A semi structured interview was followed by an observed care interaction and a second interview. Using framework analysis the data provided new understandings of the meaning and experiences of coproduced care for older people at home, with district nurses.

Results

Coproduced care was mindful. It was meaningful for older people occurring in tiny moments when there was a shared understanding of need. Tensions in choice and power occurred when risk was identified. Mindfully coproduced care allowed for the negotiation of broader cultures of care and the navigation of tensions in policy and practices, reducing inequalities in older people's care.

Conclusions and implications

Coproduced care between older people and district nurses was individual, occurring on a continuum informed by wider social, cultural and political influences. An underpinning value in district nursing of the mindful coproduction of care with older people can transform care experiences.