

P32 - HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS' PERCEPTIONS OF NURSE PRACTITIONER ROLE IN LONG TERM CARE HOMES (STUDENT POSTER)

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Brief Description of Research or Project: Successful integration of nurse practitioners (NPs) into long-term care homes (LTCHs) with healthcare provider (HCP) support for NPs is important to meet the rapidly growing need for primary healthcare within LTCHs. Secondary analysis of qualitative data from a nation-wide study regarding the integration of NPs in LTCHs revealed HCPs' positive perceptions of the NP role: NPs' provision of high quality care; resident access to care; deliberative decision-making; support for HCPs, residents, and families; and availability. HCPs were hesitant to integrate NPs when role funding was uncertain. Findings indicate that HCPs value, accept, and support the NP role in LTCHs. **Why is this research important to profile at the Research Day 2014?** Across Canada, the need for increased staff knowledge and capacity building, combined with fewer physicians providing primary care and increasingly complex resident requirements has stimulated the hiring of nurse practitioners (NPs) in long-term care homes (LTCHs). Successful integration of NPs is important to meet these rapidly growing needs. In Ontario, NPs have worked in LTCHs for the past 13 years, whereas most provinces have gradually introduced the role over the past two to five years. Little is known about healthcare providers' (HCPs) perceptions of the NP role in LTCHs. Considering that positive HCPs' perceptions facilitate NP role integration, it is important to understand their perceptions. Secondary analysis of qualitative data from a nation-wide study regarding NP integration in LTCHs revealed positive HCPs' perceptions of the NP role. HCPs reported that NPs provide high quality care; improve resident access to care; use deliberative decision-making; and support HCPs, residents, and families. Hesitancy to integrate the NP role occurred when role funding was uncertain or the role was unclear. Findings indicate that HCPs value, accept, and support the NP role in LTCHs. Participants will learn how NPs work with HCPs to provide quality care, support HCPs' roles, and contribute to teams. Successful integration of NPs can lead to prompt access to healthcare, improved resident and family outcomes, staff development, and cost-efficiency. Nation-wide data increases the usefulness and generalizability of these findings in Canadian LTCHs. Study findings are highly relevant for those considering hiring an NP and for decision-makers thinking of funding NP roles.