

Abstract Submission – Canadian Doctoral Nursing Network Conference 2021

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Title: Mapping the Social Relations of Home Care Nursing Work – Research in Progress

As I read media reports of paramedicine programs providing wellness checks (Hay, 2019; Ontario Community Paramedicine Secretariat, 2019) and palliative care services in homes (Wadhvani, 2019), my curiosity about what is happening for home care nursing was raised. Home care is a diverse program providing a range of services including nursing care (Health Canada, 2016). Nurses' work is highly skilled and nurses are the largest group of health care providers in home care (Canadian Nurses Association, 2013; Ganann, Weeres, Lam, Chung, & Valaitis, 2019). However, there are significant gaps in understanding home care nursing work in Canada (Canadian Nurses Association, 2013). Given the increasing demands for home care (The Conference Board of Canada, 2015), the calls to better support clients to live well in their homes (Canadian Home Care Association, 2011), and the broader influences changing nursing work, there is a need to understand home care nursing. The purpose of this research is to investigate the work of home care nurses in one British Columbia health authority using institutional ethnography to identify what the work of home care nurses is and to understand what is coordinating the work of nurses in home care. Institutional ethnography (IE), as a critical qualitative approach to inquiry, offers a unique view that aims to map the ruling relations and the "institutional complexes in which they participate" (Smith, 2005, p. 51). True to inductive qualitative research design, the specific questions will emerge from the initial data collection. Broad research questions being explored include: 1) How do home care nurses describe their work providing care to clients every day? 2) How do the work policies, processes, and

institutional structures affect their work experiences? This project is embedded in a larger CIHR funded study, "Tackling the Home Care Challenge", as a part of this presentation, I will identify the progress to date and my experiences of being a PhD research fellow in this study as it contributes to my research questions.

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