

Abstract Submission for Canadian Doctoral Nursing Network Conference 2025

Title Public Health Nurses' Use of Digital Technologies to Provide Individualised Care: A Reflexive Thematic Analysis

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Abstract (250 words)

Background: Early Years' programs are a public health initiative aimed to address higher levels of need across the social determinants of health among pregnant individuals and families with young children. These programs, primarily delivered by Public Health Nurses (PHNs) through in-person home visits, support children's healthy development with recognition of the critical role of a child's caregivers in fostering a developmentally supportive environment (Beaston et al., 2021). However, the reach and impact of these programs depends on meeting the unique needs of families (Bower, 2020). A better understanding of the use of technologies by nurses will provide insight into individual/family engagement with the program and with the nurse. **Methods:** Grounded in the theory of Individualised Care (Suhonen et al., 2000), this research aims to explore how digital health technologies are taken up in nurse-led Early Years programs, focusing on the contextual and design factors influencing nurses' decisions when choosing technologies. Qualitative descriptive design and reflexive thematic analysis will be used to interpret perspectives and experiences from 25-30 PHNs in British Columbia and Alberta. Knowledge translation will occur over six months with a small group of PHNs to reflect on the research findings, discuss implications for policy and practice and work together to develop actionable recommendations for education and program improvements. **Impact:** Findings will help guide health systems to prioritize investment in tools that are more suitable to meet the diverse needs of families and enhance the quality of nurse-client interactions across a range of care contexts.