Support of Advanced Practice: Issues for Nurses in Rural and Remote Canada

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Introduction

- Literature review of support for Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners in rural and remote Canada
The Nature of Nursing Practice In Rural and Remote Canada Study

- Survey
- Registered Nurses Data Base (RNDB)
- Documentary Analysis
- Narrative Study
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Why Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners?

Why rural?

Why support?
Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners - who are they?

Advanced Practice Nurse

- Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Nurse Practitioner:
  - Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
  - Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner
Why Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners?

- RNDB, 2000: 12.7% of all nurses in rural communities work in community health/health centres. Largest increase in place of work (up 3.5% from 1994)
- RNDB, 2000: 1% of nurses work in nursing stations
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<th>Urban Communities</th>
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Source: RNDB 2000/CIHI
Why Rural?

- Limited Research
- RNDB: Rural communities growing but number of nurses decreasing
- RNDB: Rural communities: 21.7% of total population of Canada, only 17.9% of total number of nurses in Canada
Why Support?

2002 Report of the Canadian Nursing Advisory Committee

* Recommendations to improve quality of nurse’s work life
* Based on Canadian research
* Supportive work environments for all nurses are vital

Commitment and Care: The benefits of a healthy workplace for nurses, their patients and the system (Baumann et al, 2001)

* Synthesis of research literature
* Focus on the supportive work environment & identifies other dimensions of support
Support in Rural Context

MacPhee & Scott (2002) 10 rural hospitals in Colorado

*Satisfaction with support
*Social Support-structural & functional
*Findings: younger nurses-peer support, older nurses-management support

MacLeod (1998) 3 rural hospitals in northern BC “We’re It” study

* Understanding of everyday nursing practice leads to understanding how to support nursing practice
Support-Nurse Practitioner

- International work
  - Limited application
- Canadian studies
  - NPs in urban settings
  - Limited exploration of support
Framework for looking at Support

- Administration
- Colleagues
- Family
- Community
Administration Support

- Clarification of nurse practitioner role
- Infrastructure
- Continuing education
- Guidelines, policies, standards
- Mentorship and preceptorship programs
Colleague Support

- Registered Nurses
- Nurse Practitioners
- Physicians
Family Support

- Mostly ignored in the literature
- Brown & Olshansky (1998) when colleague support lacking, newly graduated NPs turned to family and friends for support
Community Support

- Mostly ignored in the literature
- Nursing role blurs into the community role
- Confidentiality, isolation
- Understanding and acceptance of the NP role
Next Steps

My Thesis: The experience of support for primary health care nurse practitioners in rural and remote communities in Canada
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The Nature of Nursing Practice in Rural and Remote Canada Study: Funding Partners

- Canadian Health Services Research Foundation
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- Nursing Research Fund
- Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Alberta Heritage Foundation for Health Research
- Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research
- Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation
- B.C. Rural and Remote Health Research Institute
- Saskatchewan Economic and Cooperative Development
- Canadian Institute for Health Information
- Provincial and Territorial Nurses Associations
- Government of Nunavut