

Publication

Daily practices of advanced practice nurses within a multi-professional primary care practice in Switzerland: a qualitative analysis

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The rising global population of older persons with chronic conditions demands new primary care models. Advanced practice nurses (APNs) can help meet that need. In Switzerland, APNs have only recently been introduced in primary care and little is known about their daily practice. This study aims to describe APNs' activities and general roles at four sites with multi-professional primary care practices in the Swiss cantons of Bern and Solothurn.; To study the practices of APNs at the study sites, we adopted a social constructivist perspective, lending methods from ethnographic field research. We interviewed, observed and accompanied participants over five months, generating rich data on their daily practices. The analysis followed Braun and Clarke's six-step thematic analysis process.; The APNs' daily practices cover three main themes. Their core activities are working with expanded clinical skills and being on-site specialists for patients and their relatives. These practices are surrounded by net activities, i.e., taking care of patients in tandem with the physicians and regular visits in residential long-term care facilities. The outer activity layer consists of cohesive activities, with which APNs anchor and facilitate their role and catalyze further development of the care model. APNs tailor their expanded medical knowledge and nursing practice to maximize the value they provide in patient care.; This study extends our knowledge of APNs' daily practice within a Swiss multi-professional primary care practice. Our results indicate competencies that need to be integrated in APN education and point out the high potential of APN integration in such primary care practices.

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