

District nurse views on improving the transfer of care from hospital to home

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Delivering healthcare in people's homes creates more choice and gives patients better access to care. This is a 2015 study into how hospital to home transfer of care is delivered in practice.



STUDY AIMS

To explore the views of district nurse teams:

- What are the enablers and barriers to hospital to home transfer of care?



SAMPLING

Selective sampling applied:

- Band 6 qualified district nurses directly involved in and with a knowledge of, the transfer of care
- Three ranges of experience (1–5 years, 5–10 years, 10+ years)



METHOD

- Qualitative research adopted
- Six semi-structured interviews undertaken



ANALYSIS

- Thematic analysis implemented to identify codes, analyse and report patterns



BARRIERS

- Poor communication
- Lack of pre-planning
- Lack of co-ordination
- Bureaucracy hindered innovative thinking



ENABLERS

- Access to equipment prior to transfer of patient
- A co-location working model improved communication and pre-planning
- Discharge liaison team co-ordinating the transfer of care, particularly for end of life patients



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Map care pathways, identify gaps and improve patients' journeys
- Strengthen co-ordination and communication between community nursing and acute providers
- Revise documentation systems and adopt a more joined-up approach
- Undertake a comprehensive review of data collection and information sharing processes
- Develop a more robust and precise method of assessing workloads and improving data recording systems
- Evaluate and clarify roles and responsibilities
- Collaborate with national organisations and research the challenges facing community nursing including specialist district nurse qualification, role dilution, staffing and new models of working
- Research and compare international models of community nursing transfer of care



HOW THE FINDINGS CONTRIBUTED TO PRACTICE

- Study findings shared with stakeholders (Queens' Nursing Institute and Higher Educational Institutions)
- The nurses and operational leads involved in the study established a development group to take forward the practice based recommendations to help improve local working practices