Reviewer's report

Title: Resident and Family Perceptions of the Nurse Practitioner Role in Long-Term Care Settings: A Qualitative Descriptive Study

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Reviewer: Christine Brown Wilson

Reviewer's report:

This is a well constructed qualitative study with a clear question relating to the perception of the role of Nurse Practitioner’s (NP) in Long Term Care. The methodology is sound and this paper addresses the issues of rigour well. The themes are clearly related to the data that is presented. While many studies hypothesise about how hospital admissions/ visits impact on older people in long term care this study that provides data from the perspective of residents and families. It is of interest that not all older people wish to avoid hospitalisation and this is something that warrants further consideration for those involved in practice development in LTC environments.

The discussion demonstrates how this data informs the field of literature by drawing on acknowledged expertise in the relevant areas of discussion. Knowing the resident is something that has been identified as valuable in the day to day care of older people and it is noteworthy that this study finds a similar mechanism in avoiding hospitalisation and promoting quality of care in the context of the role of NP’s. Implementing person centred and relationship centred approaches to care is recognised as an appropriate goal to improve quality of life for older people in LTC, this paper suggests these approaches also facilitate improved quality of care when used in conjunction with NP’s - this has important implications for the development of these approaches in LTC when improved quality of care is required.

Study limitations are acknowledged and the future questions suggested are appropriate to further develop this field of inquiry. This paper provides important information for policy makers, managers and staff in LTC.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'