Project: The sustainability of nursing care models implemented in the context of early childhood and school nurses

Abstract

Background: In 2018, nursing frameworks were implemented in the practice of early childhood nurse (ECN) and school nurses (SN) of a Swiss canton, respectively the strength-based nursing and healthcare (SBNH) framework for the ECN and the unitary vision (UV) for the SN. The project aimed to enhance the quality of care and to align it more closely with the actual practices provided by ECNs and SNs. An exploration of the evolution of their nursing competences and an evaluation of the implementation process were carried out. The present research project is a continuation of this process.

Objectives: The objectives are: 1) to explore the experience of direct (parents, adolescents and young adults) and indirect recipients (professional network), with SBNH and UV; 2) To describe the strategies implemented to sustain the frameworks in the practice; 3) To explore the ECNs' and SNs' perception of the determinants of the sustainability of the SBNH and UV in the practice.

Methods: In order to fulfil the initial objectives, semi-structured interviews will be conducted with a total of 30 direct recipients: 15 parents who consulted with ECN and 15 parents or adolescents (aged 14 or above) who consulted with SN. For indirect recipients, two single case analyses will be conducted on clinical situations involving several professionals working in collaboration with SN or ECN. One analysis will be carried out on a case involving SN and one on a case involving ECN. Other professionals involved in the case will be invited to participate in semi-structured interviews (n = 3 per case). With regard to the second and third objectives, a mixed-method approach will be employed. SNs and ECNs will be invited to complete the Clinical Sustainability Assessment Tool. Furthermore, two focus groups with SNs, one with ECNs and one focus group with the head nurses in each population will be conducted to gather more information regarding sustainability determinants.

Expected results and impact: This research will provide insights into the experiences of both direct and indirect recipients of nursing frameworks (specifically SBNH and UV), thereby filling a gap in existing literature. Comparing participants' experience with the framework key elements will inform the adaptation of nursing practices, training and interprofessional collaboration. Furthermore, the exploration of both facilitators and potential barriers to sustainability of SBNH and UV after their implementation will provide rigorous data for adapting or setting up new sustainability strategies.