SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH PLAN: RESidents Perspectives Of Living in Nursing Homes in Switzerland (RESPONS)

Background

With demographic changes and the rising health care needs of elderly people, Quality of Care (QoC) becomes increasingly important for the involved stakeholders. Due to legislation and the changing demands of nursing homes residents and their relatives, there is a call for a high level of QoC. QoC as a multidimensional concept, encompasses the provider's as well as the user's perspective, and includes both objective and subjective quality indicators. In Switzerland, the nursing home residents' perspectives regarding QoC, have to date, not been comprehensively evaluated.

The purpose of the proposed study, "RESidents Perspectives Of Living in Nursing Homes in Switzerland (RESPONS)", is to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of QoC. In order to achieve this, the Swiss nursing home residents' point of view will be assessed and the relationship between the subjective and objective QoC indicators and residents' characteristics will be explored. This study is connected to the Swiss Nursing Homes Human Resource Project (SHURP) (Schwendimann 2011), which is conducted by the Institute of Nursing Science in Basel. The SHURP explores the characteristics and relationships between nursing personnel, QoC and objective residents' outcomes in Swiss nursing homes.

Study objectives

1. To describe satisfaction with nursing care (SwC) and Quality of Life (QoL) from the nursing home residents' point of view (subjective quality of care indicators).

2. To explore the relationships between the nursing home residents' SwC, QoL, residents' characteristics (socio-demographics, degree of care dependency, cognitive status) and nursing homes profile (size, legal status).

3. To explore the relationship between subjective quality of care indicators, objective quality of care indicators and nursing work force characteristics (in collaboration with SHURP).

Methods

RESPONS is a multi-centre study with a cross-sectional survey design and will conduct face-to-face interviews with nursing home residents. The face-to-face interviews allow the inclusion of cognitively impaired residents. The study will be conducted by the Berne University of Applied Sciences in collaboration with the University of Basel, Institute of Nursing Science. The sampling strategy is based on the SHURP study, which is a stratified according to language regions and nursing home sizes across Switzerland. In the RESPONS study, a representative sample of 1'200 residents (from a total of 11'250) will be invited to participate. Four instruments will be used in the collection of data. Descriptive statistics will be applied to describe the characteristics of the participants, degree of care dependency, SwC and QoL. Parametric and non-parametric tests and multivariate statistics will be utilised to examine the relationships between these variables and between the subjective quality indicators, the objective quality indicators and the resident characteristics. The ethical requirements regarding the vulnerability of the participants, along with other ethical issues such as confidentiality, will be taken into account.

Expected value of the proposed project

This study will contribute to a comprehensive understanding of residents' perspectives on QoC along with its subjective indicators (e.g. QoL, SwC). The residents' point of view will identify high priority factors for quality improvement and will therefore contribute to a good QoL in nursing homes.

Finances

The total cost of the project is CHF 430'000. CHF 142'000 is financed by the Berne University of Applied Sciences and the Swiss Society of Alzheimer's Disease and funding of CHF 100'000 is hereby requested for the Nursing Science Foundation Switzerland.