

# What can nurse do to solve the primary care woes of Canadian healthcare systems?

## A case for integrating nurse practitioners into healthcare systems

CAHSPR/ACRSPS

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Nurse Practitioner Integration Research



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# Integrating NPs into BC healthcare system

- \* 3 year mixed methods study 2011-2013
- \* Funded by Michael Smith Foundation
- \* Interprofessional research team: researcher, physician, health authorities, policy makers

# Data Sources and Participants

Phase (Year)	Data Collection Method	Type of Participant (number)	Total Participants
1	PP Survey	NPs (31)	31
1	3 Focus Groups (Encounter Codes)	NPs (9) Chief Nursing Officers (7) NP leads (4)	20
2	Patient Survey	Patients of NPs (148)	148
2	1 Focus Group (Time and Access)	NPs	13
2	Co-worker Survey	Coworkers of NPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-health care professionals (8) (e.g. social worker, director of care, research colleague)</li> <li>• Pharmacist (2)</li> <li>• Physician (9)</li> <li>• NP (1)</li> <li>• RN (7)</li> <li>• LPN and Care Worker (2)</li> <li>• MOA (9)</li> </ul>	38
2	Interviews (EMR)	NPs (15)	15
3	Interviews (Patients)	Patients of NPs (20)	20
3	PP Survey	NPs (96)	96
3	3 Case Studies (one rural and two urban settings)	NPs (3) Patients (4) Coworkers of NPs (30): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-health care professionals (7)</li> <li>• Physician (4)</li> <li>• NP (4)</li> <li>• RN (4)</li> <li>• MOA and admin (5)</li> <li>• Allied health care professionals (6)</li> </ul>	37
<b>Total participants for project</b> (includes known and potential duplicates)			<b>418</b>

# Patients' Perceptions

- \* Satisfied
- \* Care was:
  - \* Comprehensive
  - \* Continuity of care
  - \* Convenient
- \* Behavioral changes:
  - \* Dietary changes
  - \* Self-care management
  - \* Physical activity

# Co-workers' Perceptions (nurses, physicians, other professionals)

- \* Satisfied working with NP
- \* Increased access to care
- \* Spent time with patients
- \* Supported other nurses/staff
- \* Referred to other health professionals
- \* Met expectations

# Value added to Healthcare System

- \* Access to care that is comprehensive, continuous & convenient
- \* Patients are satisfied with care & take more responsibility
- \* Co-workers are satisfied collaborating with NPs
- \* NPs are caring for people/populations:
  - \* Homeless, mental health issues, frail seniors, First Nations people in rural/remote communities

# Challenges to NP Integration

- \* Structures that facilitate collaborative team work
- \* Adequate space for NPs to practice
- \* On-going funding for NP positions
- \* Funding models that facilitate team based care
- \* Remove legislative barriers to NP practice
- \* Value nursing knowledge, ability and voice
- \* Create space in the healthcare system for all nurses to use their knowledge and abilities to provide a different dimension to primary care

# Thank you





# References

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