Professional care providers and stakeholders’ views of best practice in the care for persons with dementia in Sweden

Christina Bökberg, RNT, Doctoral student\textsuperscript{1}, Gerd Ahlström, RN, PhD, Professor\textsuperscript{1}, Staffan Karlsson, RNT, PhD, Senior lecturer\textsuperscript{1}, Ingalill Rahm Hallberg, RN, PhD, Professor\textsuperscript{1}, Ann-Christin Janlöv, RNT, PhD, Senior lecturer\textsuperscript{2}

\textsuperscript{1}Department of Health Sciences, Faculty of medicine, Lund University, P.O. Box 157, SE-221 00 Lund, Sweden
\textsuperscript{2}School of Health and Society, Kristianstad University, 291 88 Kristianstad

Abstract

Background: To meet the increasing needs for persons with dementia and their relatives a well-functioning health care system in which resources are used optimally is needed. For this to be achieved requires strategy and planning of synergies between the different cares providers. This study will explore professional caregivers’ and stakeholders’ views of best practice in terms of information, collaboration and communication in dementia care.

Aim: The aim of the study was to explore professional care providers’ and stakeholders' views of best practice in concepts of information, collaboration and communication throughout the trajectory of care from diagnosis to end of life care for persons with dementia in Sweden.

Method: The study had a qualitative approach based on three focus group interviews with a variation among participants regarding professions and workplaces to represent different types of care for persons with dementia from diagnosis to end of life care. The transcribed verbatim was analyzed with qualitative content analysis.

Preliminary results: In early stages primary health care specialized in dementia had close collaboration, training and mentoring, with memory clinic and home care. In the later stages the person with dementia had less frequent contacts with primary health care. Day care played an important role in information delivery of the disease, in collaboration with home and institutional care. In the latest stage the family had an important role as a proxy for the person with dementia about desires in the care.

Conclusion: A well-functioning network in professional care seems to have an impact on persons with dementia to remain at home despite loss of mental and physical functions.

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