

An Analysis of Field Notes through different Lenses

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Background

Patients collaborate as partners in many types and stages of research. It is unclear how their lived experience might influence how they engage in qualitative observations and field note documentation.

Aim

To explore how experiences and knowledge might shape observations of interactions during hemodialysis care

Methods

- Field note analysis embedded within qualitative study of *EMPATHY* project
- Observations of patient-reported outcome measure use in 7 hemodialysis centres in Southern Alberta by:
 - A patient partner (B.C.), or
 - A research coordinator (S.L.)
- Field note documentation of:
 - interactions
 - environment
 - communication
 - non-verbal dynamics
- De-identified field notes analyzed in duplicate for (1) structure, format, and language, (2) content
- Patient partner and researcher field notes compared and contrasted

Results

Patient Partner



- Nurse-patient interactions
 - Emotions
- Patient reactions
- Rapport building

Research Coordinator



- Context
- Interaction between environment, emotions, and dynamics on study outcomes

Focus



Interpretation



- Positive approaches
- Influence of nursing actions and relationships on routine dialysis practices

Analytic Contribution



- Similar codes ('labels') applied as for research coordinator
- No observed symptom survey administration

- Nursing reactions
- Critical feedback from nurses outside of observation

- More observations and codes
- Insight into symptom survey use in addition to symptom report review

Conclusion

Patient partners can meaningfully engage in qualitative observational data collection with training and support.

The lens through which patient partners observe symptom-related interactions can complement and enhance the field notes of researchers and provide insight grounded in personal experience.

EDI and SGBA+ Considerations

We considered observer and participant genders, noted language barriers, and examined how social determinants of health may have influenced patient-reported outcome measure use in routine hemodialysis care.

References

1. Hellesø R et al. Implications of observing and writing field notes through different lenses. *J Multidiscip Healthc.* 2015 Apr 8;8:189-97.
2. Johnson JA et al. A cluster randomized controlled trial for the Evaluation of routinely Measured PATient reported outcomes in Hemodialysis care (EMPATHY): a study protocol. *BMC Health Serv Res.* 2020 Aug 10;20(1):731.