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Paper Title: Nurse-led telemonitoring in Community Aged-Care: Project findings and nursing insights

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Abstract: A team of community nurses partnered with researchers and rural health organisations to undertake several nurse-led telemonitoring projects, each with a unique approach towards community aged-care. Their findings provide insights into the impact of this approach to healthcare delivery and identify opportunities for development from a nursing perspective.

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Title: Nurse-led Telemonitoring in Community Aged-Care: Project findings and nursing insights

Introduction

A team of community nurses partnered with researchers and rural health organisations to undertake several nurse-led telemonitoring projects, each with a unique approach towards community aged-care. Their findings provide insights into the impact of this approach to healthcare delivery and identify opportunities for development from a nursing perspective.

Research Description

The realm of telehealth is continuing to expand in Australia. Its application has primarily been forced onto hospitals and General Practices, with financial incentives for video and telephone consultations. However, there are many different applications of telehealth that if explored further could provide a different platform for healthcare delivery. For example, there is a growing body of evidence supporting nurse-led home telemonitoring as a suitable method of healthcare delivery to help people actively manage their own health, improve quality of life and prevent unplanned hospital presentations (Celler et al. 2016; Lorentz 2008).

Based on this evidence, a team of community nurses are leading several telemonitoring projects, each with a unique application in the community aged-care sector. They have partnered with Australian universities and rural health organisations to evaluate the impact of these projects on older people, health providers, health resources and the wider community. The projects include:

- Evaluation of in-home telemonitoring technology and its economic, social and health impact.
- Supporting Residential Aged-Care Facilities with nurse-led telemonitoring.
- Enhancing independent living for in-home aged care, using a nurse-led, interprofessional team care approach.

Summary

To date the projects undertaken by the team of nurses and their partners have found that nurse-led telemonitoring for community aged-care has economic benefits for the wider community, promotes collaborative approaches to chronic disease management and improves health literacy and self-management of patients and carers (Burmeister et al. 2016). The nurse clinicians have also provided valuable insights such as the need for development of clinical policies that are specific to ‘telehealth monitoring’ and the need for integrated care to strengthen partnerships and communication with General Practices.

Conclusion

Nurse-led telemonitoring in the community aged-care sector is a relatively new area of research interest. Several projects undertaken by a team of community nurses provide evidence for this effective telehealth platform as well as nursing issues for consideration.

References

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