Expert Nursing Care: Perinatal Palliative Care During Labour, Delivery, and the Recovery Period

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Statement of the Problem

- Perinatal palliative care (PPC) is the care of families from the time of learning of a life-limiting diagnosis for their fetus into the bereavement period after the death of their infant.¹ ²
- In Manitoba, families often face these losses on a labour, delivery, and recovery (LDR) unit.³
- In this setting, nurses provide 1:1 care for families and rise to the challenge of coordinating PPC.⁴ ⁵
- Nurses skillfully weave the tenets of palliative care into the complex tapestry of LDR care.
- The behaviors that nurses engage in to provide PPC, particularly of those who are recognized by their peers as being exceptionally skilled at providing PPC, have not been documented.

Purpose

1. Describe critical behaviors required for the provision of expert nursing care for those families expecting a stillborn infant or an early neonatal death during the LDR period.
2. Describe what factors promote or impede the ability of nurses to develop and carry out these behaviors.
3. Describe the consequences of being able or not being able to enact these behaviors when providing care.

Design

- Interpretive description,⁶ a qualitative research methodology that places emphasis on yielding knowledge for application in clinical practice.⁷
- Theoretical forestrukture:
  - Discipline of Nursing
  - Benner’s From Novice to Expert Model (1984)

Sample and Recruitment

- Purposive sample of 10 registered nurses deemed as experts at the provision of PPC by their colleagues.
- Identified through an anonymous nomination process.⁹ ¹⁰ ¹¹
- Nominated nurses will receive a letter of invitation to participate in the study.

Setting

- Two participating tertiary care sites in Winnipeg each with one participating LDR unit.

Ethical Considerations

- Perinatal loss is a delicate and sensitive topic for some people.
- Check-in with participants during interviews and welcome to stop or break from interview.
- Participants provided with contact information for counselling and support services.

Data Collection and Analysis

- Participants will take part in up to three semi-structured face-to-face interviews.
- Audio recorded interviews will be transcribed verbatim.
- Data analysis:
  - Demographics: Descriptive statistics
  - Qualitative data: Thematic analysis.¹²

Data Collection and Analysis

- Scholarly journals (e.g., Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Neonatal Nursing).
- Conferences (e.g., Canadian Association of Perinatal and Women’s Health Nurses Annual Conference).
- Online platforms (e.g., perinatalhospice.org & Canadian Virtual Hospice).
- Participating sites and WRHA Pediatric Palliative Care Team.
  - Voluntary anonymous evaluation form to solicit feedback and identify priorities for future research.

Dissemination

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References