Homecare Workers as Proxy Healthcare Professionals: Evaluating Appropriateness, Acceptability, and Impact

The Pro-Health Study

Pro-Health is an NIHR-funded study, led by researchers at **King's College London** aiming to address the evidence gaps surrounding delegation practices in homecare, to produce practical outputs and guidance to support homecare providers and commissioners (e.g., training materials). We aim to better understand the potential for homecare workforce role expansion, including if it is wanted and warranted.

Our methods

We will recruit **eight diverse homecare providers**, and collect data using three different methods: 1) semi-structured interviews; 2) structured diaries; 3) document review of job descriptions and anonymised client care plans.

Qualitative interviews – across eight providers, we aim to speak to 40 homecare staff (approximately 5 per provider), and 20 older people and their family carers (approximately 2 per provider). During these interviews, we want to find out what people's perspectives on and experiences of delegation are, as well as their views towards carer role expansion to help us assess motivations and barriers. Interviews are expected to last up to 60-minutes, and participants will be thanked with a £20 voucher for their time.

Diaries - we will ask a sub-sample of the homecare workers we interview (8-10 carers across the 8 providers) to complete anonymous online diary entries once a day for five days after their shift. In this, homecare workers will be able to record experiences of healthcare interventions in practice, any support or guidance sought/given and any issues they faced. Each diary entry should not take more than 15-minutes per day, and carers who complete all five entries will be thanked with a £75 voucher for their time.

Job description and care plan review - we will review and make comparisons of homecare workers' job descriptions, and anonymised client care plans to evaluate job expectations with work in practice. We will be asking homecare providers to redact identifiable information (i.e. name, date of birth, address, family contacts) before sharing them with us, and we will be able to pay for up to four hours of time to support this.

Interested in taking part?

Contact Abi at abigail.2.burgess@kcl.ac.uk, or visit our study webpage here:

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