2013 TVN Knowledge Synthesis Grant

Patient- and family-reported experience and outcome measures for elderly acute care patients: a knowledge synthesis

The needs of seriously ill elderly patients hospitalized in acute care are complex. Comprehensive assessments of their perceived health outcomes, quality of life concerns, and health care experiences are critical to the provision of high quality care that addresses the needs of patients and their families. This project will review evidence about the use of self-report assessment questionnaires with patients and their families in acute care settings to assess, monitor, and address their quality of life concerns and health care experiences. Specifically, we will identify and evaluate questionnaires designed to measure patient- and family-reported outcomes (PROMs) and patient/family-reported experiences (PREMs). The purpose is to produce a comparative evaluation of PREMs and PROMs designed to provide important information from the perspective of patients and their families in order for clinicians, administrators and decision makers to ensure that the needs and concerns of seriously ill elderly patients and their families are fully understood. Our interdisciplinary team consists of researchers and knowledge users and aims to produce evidence-based recommendations that will inform the selection and utilization of PROMs and PREMs by researchers, clinicians, and decision makers with the ultimate goal to improve quality of care of seriously ill elderly patients and their families.

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Host Institution: Trinity Western University

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Dr. Richard Sawatzky is an Associate Professor and holds a Canada Research Chair in Patient-Reported Outcomes in the School of Nursing, and the School of Graduate Studies at Trinity Western University (TWU). He also works as a research scientist with the Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences (CHÉOS) at Providence Health Care in British Columbia. Dr. Sawatzky has been a faculty member at TWU since 2002, having taught courses on nursing research, medical and surgical nursing, nursing care of older adults, and health assessment. He currently teaches courses on knowledge synthesis and quantitative research methods in the Master of Science in Nursing program. Dr. Sawatzky completed his undergraduate studies at TWU and his graduate studies at the University of British Columbia. His clinical background is in palliative care and medical nursing care, and his research focuses on patient-reported outcomes (PROs) and measurement and quality of life measurement in people with chronic life-limiting conditions. His current research includes studies about the challenges of PRO measurement in heterogeneous populations and in longitudinal studies, the validation of computerized assessment systems, the use of handheld devices for quality of life assessment, educational approaches for patients with colorectal cancer, and patients’ experiences with knee surgery.

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