



Exploring clinical leadership for LPNs within Supportive Living in Alberta

Supportive living (SL) services offer older adults a range of residential and healthcare services depending on their needs. In Alberta, the majority of healthcare services in SL are provided by healthcare aides (HCAs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs), where LPNs are often the staff with the highest level of education involved in direct care delivery. As a result, LPNs are taking on ever increasing clinical leadership roles requiring further education and support.

Drawing upon established theories and models of clinical leadership, this research aims to develop an understanding and conceptual model of clinical leadership for LPNs in SL in Alberta that reflects the collaborative, team-based nature of care in these environments (incorporating HCAs, LPNs, and RNs). This research is phase 1 of a multi-phased research program aimed at understanding clinical leadership and informing education and training options for developing clinical leadership capacity within care teams. This particular research project aims to explore the conceptualization, attributes, roles, behaviours, education and training options for LPN clinical leadership within the context of SL in Alberta.

This research will utilize an exploratory, qualitative, interpretive design incorporating observation, in-depth interviews and focus groups in four SL sites in Alberta. A representative from each SL site, the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA), and the Practical Nurse Program at Bow Valley College, as well as an international advisor will be invited to join a research advisory group to guide and tailor the research to the context. It is expected that this research project will inform an understanding of clinical leadership for LPNs within SL that will be used to inform future education and training.

For more information contact the CLPNA's Research department [Ask CLPNA, \[ask@clpna.com\]\(mailto:ask@clpna.com\)](mailto:ask@clpna.com) or phone 780-484-8886 or 1-800-661-5877 (toll free in Alberta).