Advanced Practice in Practice: A Grounded Theory Study

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Presentation Overview

- Study Background
- Study Objectives
- What is Grounded Theory?
- Research Strategy
- Timelines
- Reflection
Background

- 2005: Radiation therapy advanced practice type roles implemented at Peter Mac - breast specialist, imaging specialist, brachytherapist

- 2011 Evaluation: large variation in utility, outcomes and expectations; mixed degree of satisfaction

- Recent developments:
  - IPAT report 2012
  - AIR advanced practice pathway 2014
  - MRPBA Workforce Redesign Working Group
  - BARO Advanced Practice Project Monash University
Background

- National impetus growing
- Peter Mac evidence suggests adequate training does not imply successful implementation
- Regardless of national guidelines:

  Will radiation therapy advanced practice work?
  
  What other factors might have an impact on success?
Objectives

- Masters of Philosophy commenced April 2014
- Grounded theory study to investigate:
  - What are the enablers to successful implementation of radiation therapy advanced practice? (What is ‘success’?)
  - What are the barriers to successful implementation?
  - Can this evidence be used to inform national implementation?
Grounded Theory

- Grounded Theory: Qualitative research approach to determine what is happening in a given social situation
- Data collection methods broad: interviews; focus groups; observation; literature; field notes (‘All is data’ Glaser 1978)
- Use constant comparative method to code, slice and sample data and determine core category of the theory: the core statement that defines what is at the heart of the social situation under question
Grounded Theory

- Core aspects of Grounded Theory:
  - Minimise preconceived ideas or bias; theory arises from the data
  - Theory must work in explaining the data
  - Research method informed and modified by the data until saturation is reached
  - Use memos alongside coding and categorising to help build theory
  - Literature is data: literature review comes after data collection and coding commenced
Research Strategy

- What are the barriers and enablers to RT Advanced Practice (RTAP) implementation?
  - Strand 1: Online focus groups with sample senior RTs, ROs, ROMPs
  - Strand 2: Survey of senior RTs, ROs, ROMPs
  - Strand 3: Investigate real examples of RTAP – Successful; Not as successful; Not implemented. Mix focus groups; semi-structured interviews; observation; field notes
Timelines

April 2014 – Sept 2014: Research method literature

Oct 2014 – Mar 2015: Online Focus Group; Analysis; Survey Construction

April 2015 – Sept 2015: Survey Circulation; Analysis; Literature Review; Publication

Oct 2015 – Mar 2016: Confirmation; Construct Strand 3; Ethics; Recruitment

April 2016 – Sept 2016: Data Collection; Analysis; Publication

Oct 2017 – Mar 2017: Data Collection; Analysis

April 2017 – April 2018: Publications; Write up
Reflection

- Challenges:
  - Time
  - Not embedded in work place

- Rewards:
  - Learning!
  - Support from Monash: MIGR lectures; Library
  - Applied study

- Key requirements: Passion for the topic; need to be organised!