

3rd Global Experts Meet on **Health Care and Nursing**

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Hospital at Home Program and its implications on Nursing Practice

Shabana Kapadia, RN, BSN, MN, MSc

Clinical Lead | Virtual Health Programs at Fraser Health Authority

The Hospital at Home (H@H) program, also popularly known as “virtual hospital” or Hospital in the home, has created a shift in the way acute care is delivered to patients in the comfort of their own homes with the help of remote monitoring and other sophisticated technologies. In this program, admitted patients who meet the admission criteria are offered 24/7 care at home under the direct care of a hospital. Research has shown that the H@H program helps with increasing acute care capacity, optimizing patient flow, reducing unnecessary hospital stay, reducing incidents of delirium and falls among frail elderly patients associated with hospital admission, and reducing hospital-acquired infection. Furthermore, the program is associated with increased patient and caregivers’ satisfaction and increased efficiency of care. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this program has gained increased popularity, and in the coming years, it has the potential to be accepted globally. Thus, it is essential to identify the implications of the H@H program on nursing practice. Some of the key questions that I will explore in my presentation are: 1) what are the potential challenges nurses might face in the H@H program, and how do we prepare nurses to overcome these challenges? 2) What are the potential gaps between nursing education and the realities of practice in the H@H program? How do we establish transformational leadership competencies in all nursing roles to support change in nursing practice for the H@H program?

Biography

Shabana Kapadia is a clinical lead for the virtual health program at Fraser Health Authority in Vancouver, Canada. She has completed a double Masters program in Nursing and Health Informatics from the University of Victoria in Canada. She has a diverse nursing experience, including bedside nursing, case manager, clinical nurse educator and clinical information specialist. In her current role as a clinical lead, she has rolled out several virtual health projects. She is also a research and evaluation lead for the Hospital at-home (H@H) project. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she has led a remote monitoring application project at Fraser Health to prevent congestion in local hospitals. The project was a web-based application that uses remote patient monitoring technology to enable clinicians to manage symptoms of COVID-19 positive patients and their contacts at home, so they can continue to maintain self-isolation.

shabana.kapadia@fraserhealth.ca

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