

Project Title	Exploring Experiences in Rehabilitation Environments
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Lead discipline (please select one)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allied Health
<input type="checkbox"/> Medicine
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-clinical | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Economics
<input type="checkbox"/> Biostatistics
<input type="checkbox"/> Value-based Healthcare
<input type="checkbox"/> Epidemiology |
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Outline of the project

This research project is investigating the perspectives of patients regarding the physical environment in which health care is delivered, specifically physical rehabilitation services.

The research aims to examine factors in the physical environment, specifically its function (usability), comfort and aesthetics that may contribute to patient quality of care and effective health service delivery. This includes architecture or spatial layout of the setting (e.g. corridor length and bathroom size), interior design aspects (e.g. lighting, flooring and furnishings), sensory aspects (e.g. temperature, noise, smell and tactile properties), technological features (e.g. access to power for personal devices, availability of entertainment units), and therapeutic qualities (e.g. access to space and relevant equipment, resources or entertainment for promotion of physical, cognitive or social activity).

This project utilises a qualitative research design, aiming to increase understanding from the perspective from stakeholders of the potential impact, if any, of building and environment design within rehabilitation services and contribute towards future health service design.

Proposed research methods

This project is ongoing. Following project design and ethical approval, qualitative data has been collected from groups of patient participants in a number of different rehabilitation

settings through the use of in-depth, semi-structured “walking interviews”. This involved the interviewer moving through the space with the participant so the participants can share their observations, thoughts and experiences as prompted by being in and interacting with the environment.

The next stage of the project is data analysis. A thematic analysis of the transcribed interviews will be completed using line by line coding and then grouping together like codes to inductively build themes, with discussion and consensus to finalise themes and for quality assurance with the wider research team. Then, depending on data analysis progress, these results will be considered in the context of research to contribute towards writing a research paper of the factors that are important to patient stakeholders in rehabilitation healthcare facility design.

Preferred study discipline being undertaken by the student

Any – relevant to students from all professions as the research relates to rehabilitation practice in the context of interprofessional care with a research team with allied health and nursing backgrounds.

There is capacity for more than one student to work on the project.

Potential benefits to the student and to the department

Participation in this project will assist the student to develop research skills including review and synthesis of evidence, qualitative data analysis and report writing, and professional skills of interprofessional collaboration and communication in a healthcare setting.

Outcomes from this project have a real world clinical application, with the findings potentially influencing healthcare facility design nationally and internationally.

Department within ACT Health Directorate / Canberra Health Services where the student will be based

University of Canberra Hospital
Allied Health
Rehabilitation, Aged and Community Services
Canberra Health Services

Please submit form to preclinical.research@act.gov.au