

Interpersonal relations in the context of a team meeting in the light of the work of Heidegger and Merleau-Pontys philosophy

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Abstract:

The present study is an attempt to deepen the understanding derived from two empirical lifeworld phenomenological studies. The context in which these studies took place was a hospital ward for older people, and in this ward the traditional rounds had been replaced by a team meeting, in which the patients were invited.

The aim of the present study is, through a philosophical illumination, to deepen the understanding of the interpersonal dimensions of older patients' presence at team meetings. Essences from two empirical studies were brought together in a general structure, and this was further explicated by philosophical illumination using selected parts from Heidegger and Merleau-Ponty's philosophy. Philosophical illumination deepens the understanding of the existential as well as interpersonal dimensions with relation to older patients' presence at team meetings. As humans, everyone carries into the situation mood, thoughts and feelings, and thus contributes to fill the interpersonal space. In this woven network of interpersonal relationships, the patients need support in order to find their space and regain their wellbeing and self-dependence. By illuminating the empirical results with sections of Heidegger and Merleau-Ponty's philosophies, the possibility of understanding the team meeting as an integrated part of healthcare emerges. If the team meeting becomes an integrated part of care in which interpersonal relationships can be valued, the patient can be supported in coming to peace with the situation such as it is, and the patient can, together with their carers, co-create future possibilities towards well-being.