
Downloaded from: http://insight.cumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/3575/

Usage of any items from the University of Cumbria’s institutional repository ‘Insight’ must conform to the following fair usage guidelines.

Any item and its associated metadata held in the University of Cumbria’s institutional repository Insight (unless stated otherwise on the metadata record) may be copied, displayed or performed, and stored in line with the JISC fair dealing guidelines (available here) for educational and not-for-profit activities provided that

• the authors, title and full bibliographic details of the item are cited clearly when any part of the work is referred to verbally or in the written form
  • a hyperlink/URL to the original Insight record of that item is included in any citations of the work
  • the content is not changed in any way
  • all files required for usage of the item are kept together with the main item file.

You may not

• sell any part of an item
• refer to any part of an item without citation
• amend any item or contextualise it in a way that will impugn the creator’s reputation
• remove or alter the copyright statement on an item.

The full policy can be found here.
Alternatively contact the University of Cumbria Repository Editor by emailing insight@cumbria.ac.uk.
Title: Detecting and reporting domestic abuse of the elderly: Mapping the practical concerns of experienced radiographers

Authorship

1. Rachel Croft, Department of Medical and Sport Sciences, University of Cumbria, UK.
2. Dr. Paul K. Miller, Department of Medical and Sport Sciences, University of Cumbria, UK.*
3. Dr. Lisa Booth, Department of Medical and Sport Sciences, University of Cumbria, UK.
4. Dr. Elizabeth A. Bates, Department of Health, Psychology and Social Studies, University of Cumbria, UK.

*Corresponding author. Department of Medical and Sport Sciences, University of Cumbria, Bowerham Road, Lancaster, Lancashire, UK. LA1 3JD. Email: paul.miller@cumbria.ac.uk. Tel: +44 1524 384161

Keywords

Domestic abuse; Elder abuse; Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis; Plain Radiography; Qualitative research
Abstract

**Background**: While over 65,000 suspected cases of elder abuse are reported to English councils each year, it is estimated that upwards of 95% of incidences are either missed or not reported by healthcare professionals in emergency department settings.\(^1\) Despite the call from Murray and Devos\(^2\), two decades ago, for greater investigation of the extant and prospective role of radiographers in identifying abuse of the elderly, the broad phenomenon has continued to receive limited attention in medical imaging research.

**Methods**: Using a standard model of Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis,\(^3,4\) extended semi-structured interviews with N=8 experienced plain radiographers were analysed.

**Results**: In A&E contexts, where safeguarding issues have primarily been the responsibility of a physician, it was reported that the degree to which physicians take account of radiographers’ concerns about elder abuse is inconsistent at best. This had sometimes resulted in a borderline defeatist attitude among radiographers, who would now only raise such a concern if they were uncategorically certain it would be taken seriously. In the outpatient domain, where radiographers felt more in control of the medical process itself, progressively higher levels of confidence to take a lead around these matters were reported. Even here, however, participants routinely argued that the available information and clinical communication necessary for them to recognise potential elder abuse was often lacking in a way it was not around other forms of domestic abuse.

**Conclusions**: The analysis signposts some important issues around elder abuse and radiography that foregrounds, above all, the importance of clinical context and communication.
References.


