**About the Project**

PSWs provide the majority of home care in Ontario, yet little is known about their contributions to stroke rehabilitation and community reintegration. The purpose of this research is to explore how PSW practice could support the application of Canadian Stroke Strategy Best Practice Recommendations (CSS-BPRs) (2010) at home in the community.

**CURRENTLY**

What are PSWs doing to support stroke survivors and their families at home?

**IDEALLY**

What could PSWs do to bring best practices to stroke survivors and their families at home?

**CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS**

Lack of health system clarity on PSW scope of practice and accountability

Health system rules and regulations hinder information sharing

Limited health professional and public awareness of PSW role

**BRIDGING THE GAP**

Defining opportunities for change (PSW education, training, service provision, documentation etc.)

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**ADAPTE-ing to Reality in Stroke Rehabilitation**

**The problem:**
The unique role of PSWs is absent in the CSS-BPRs (2010)

**What we did:**
Guided by the ADAPTE framework (www.adapte.org) we took a systematic approach in considering the role of PSWs in providing evidence based care to stroke survivors and their families at home. The ADAPTE framework defines a stepwise process for the adaptation and customization of existing guidelines to a new context.

**Phase** | **Steps**
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Set Up | Prepare for the ADAPTE process  
• BPR sub-team with 7 interdisciplinary members

Adaptation | Define Health Questions  
• targeted to PSWs working with stroke survivors and families at home  
Search and Screen Guidelines  
Assess, Decide and Select Guidelines  
• focus groups to assess PSW role in 13 areas of care relevant to stroke  
Draft Guideline Report  
• PSW tasks organized under themes: observe, coach, assist and report

Finalization | External Review  
• Advisory committee and online public consultation  
Plan for Future Review and Update  
Produce Final Report related to the potential for PSWs to provide CSS-BPRs (2010)

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**Implications and Next Steps**

- Potential for PSWs to be more *integrated* within interdisciplinary stroke care teams
- Need for PSWs to have *access* to important client information related to rehabilitation
- Need to enhance health professional and public *understanding* of the role PSWs can and do play in the provision of evidence informed care

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**References**