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Further training and staffing and its relation to quality of patient care in Canada, medication errors, fall injury, infection and complaints

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There are mandatory and volunteer further training programs in health care and long-term care sectors in Canada. The relations between further training of care workers and quality of patient care in hospitals, home care settings and residential care facilities are unclear. The study investigates the association between further training and care workers staffing (nurses, elderly carers and care assistants) on the elderly health situation, work situation, and quality of patient care in Canada. Cross-sectional data were drawn from 2010, Canadian Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) 2010, and Canadian National Survey of the Work and Health of Nurses (2005) for the analysis. Findings reveal that additional training of care workers has a positive association with work situation and quality of patient care as in reduction of injury, infection, medication error, and satisfaction. Likewise, staffing level among elderly health workers has a strong relation with lower injuries, lower medication errors, lower Nosocomial infection and increased satisfaction. The implication of the study suggests a greater role and staffing of health workers and professional development programs to improve the quality of life of elderly.