

MIWOCA

Migrant Women's Health Care Needs for Chronic Illness Services in Switzerland

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Challenges

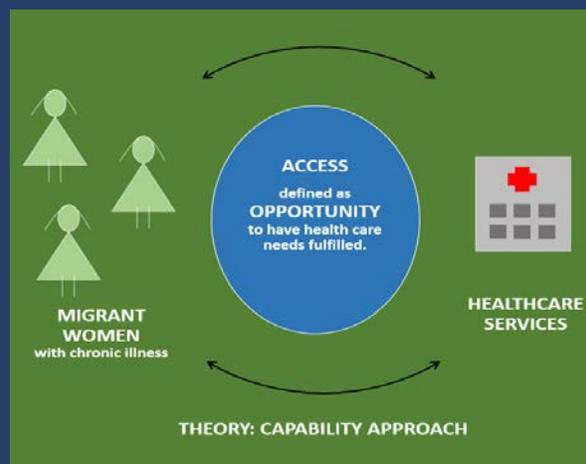
Although Switzerland has one of the best healthcare systems in Europe, there is considerable health inequality between and within different population groups. Among the marginalized groups are migrants, and existing data show that particularly migrant women with chronic diseases have limited access to healthcare services.

How do chronically ill adult women with a migratory background understand, experience and use the Swiss healthcare system? And how can their knowledge help improve Swiss healthcare services?

In a three-year study, an international research team is investigating migrant women's experiences with the Swiss healthcare system.

Goals

1. To systematically describe migrant women's needs for chronic illness care and their experiences with health care services.
2. To utilize experience-based knowledge in a participatory planning approach to develop improvements of health services.



Methods

Through individual interviews and focus groups with first-generation German, Portuguese and Turkish women with one or more chronic diseases, the study will identify their needs and challenges when using the Swiss healthcare system. In addition, providers of Swiss health and social services will be interviewed about system-based barriers to healthcare for migrant women with chronic illnesses.

Applying a mixed methods approach, quantitative (GMM II) and qualitative (interviews) data will inform later roundtable discussions. In participatory planning rounds, stake-holders from the Swiss health and social sector, patients and policy makers will develop recommendations to improve healthcare resources for chronically ill migrant women.

Results

A list of recommendations will be developed and made available for scientific and practice experts.

Findings from the MIWOCA study will be discussed with decision-makers at relevant institutions. Implementation of the recommendations is expected to result in significant improvement of healthcare services.

References

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Thurman and Harrison (2017): Social Context and value-based care: a capabilities approach for addressing health disparities. *Policy, Politics, & Nursing Practice* 0(0) 1-10.

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