

Abstract:

The rigorous thesis is devoted to the topic of social work in health care (with an emphasis on primary medical care). It deals with the possibility of cooperation between a health and social worker and general practitioners. The of this thesis follow on from my diploma thesis.

The theoretical part deals with the basic and specific health characteristics of morbidity of older population, the consequences of illnesses on the social functioning and self-sufficiency of older individuals. Attention is paid to social work in healthcare, informal and community care for older adults. The theoretical part is supplemented by 2 case studies from practice.

The empirical part is focused on qualitative research. Semi-structured interviews with caregivers made it possible to understand and describe the course of care provided, perceived support and problems related to informal care. The goal was to reveal how caregivers would evaluate the eventual possibility of cooperation with a health and social worker, and thus answer the main research question.

Like the results of the diploma thesis, the new results also confirmed foreign experience in the field of social work in primary medical care - cooperation between health and social workers and a general practitioner would bring benefits not only to cared-for persons and their caregivers, but also to doctors and the system in a wider sense.

Based on the connection of the new results and the results from the diploma thesis, a proposal for the type position "Health and Social Worker in the Community" is presented in the conclusion of the rigorous thesis. Such worker would expand the use of a health and social worker's expertise within the framework of the care model tentatively labelled "Support for Older People" and thus contribute to improving the quality of care for older persons in the community environment.