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**Title:** THE INTERVENING CONDITIONS THAT MAY IMPROVE THE STATE OF CARING BEHAVIORS FOR THE ELDERLY IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN IRAN

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**Abstract:**

Introduction:

In view of the rapid increase of the older people in recent decades the country needs to consider how the primary health care system can be improved to better serve the present and future aging population. Guided by the research question, the study has sought to understand and interpret the intervening conditions that may improve the state of caring behaviors for the elderly in primary health care in Isfahan, Iran.

Methodology:

A grounded theory approach was used on the rationale that it is most suitable for a study aiming at finding out the essence of a phenomenon that is little or not adequately know, such as posed by the present topic. The main source of data came from interviews with the elderly and their families (24 interviews), sampled on the basis of achieving theoretical saturation of the data. Other sources of data were focus group discussions (FGD) with health care providers and managers (4 focus groups, 8 participants in each group), researcher’s observations (field notes) and memos. The researcher used the constant comparative method for data analysis.

Findings:

Despite the strong effect of some inhibiting conditions on caring behaviors for the elderly in primary health care, the presence of some factors mitigated the effect of those conditions. In this study, four categories were identified as intervening conditions. These categories include “reinforcing factors”, “individuals' characteristic”, “perceived concepts of health”, and “adaptation mechanisms”. Some of these factors only affected individual domain, or family and personnel domain and sometimes they mitigate all domains.

Discussion:

By using grounded theory methodology the study was able to provide new insights into the conditions mitigating the elderly primary health care in urban health care centers as an aspect of elderly primary health care quality in Isfahan, Iran. The reality of elderly primary health care in urban health care centers in Isfahan provides adequate knowledge for policy makers and health care providers to consider appropriate strategies for immediate and future applications. Other studies using different approaches in other urban and rural areas of Iran are recommended as they would provide other processes and dimensions affecting the elderly primary health care.

**Key words:** Intervening conditions, elderly health, primary health care, Isfahan

**Presentation:** Poster