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Title: Telecare and technologically mediated nursing consultations – A practice-philosophical analysis of care and digital proximity

Mrs. Anne Dichmann 3754 Sorknæs anne@sorknaes.dk ^{1,2}, Mrs. Lise 3755 Hounsgaard lhounsgaard@healt.sdu.dk ², Mr. Finn 3756 Olesen finno@imv.au.dk ³, Mr. Peder 3757 Jest Peder.Jest@ouh.regionsyddanmark.dk MD ¹, Mr. Mickael 3758 Bech mbe@sam.sdu.dk ⁴ and Mrs. Birte 3759 Østergaard boestergaard@health.sdu.dk ². ¹ Medical Department, OUH-Odense University Hospital & Svendborg Hospital, Svendborg, Denmark, 5700 ; ² ResearchUnit of Nursing, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark, 5230 ; ³ Aesthetics and Communication-Information Studies, University of Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark, 8200 and ⁴ Health Economic Research, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark, 5230 .

Body: Telemedicine is increasingly being introduced with the overall expectation that it can solve some of the basic challenges faced by the health system regarding a growing number of chronically ill patients with several service needs. This article focuses on Danish hospital staff nurses' and discharged patients' experiences with teleconsultations related to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. It deals with the effect of teleconsultations on the relationship between nurses and patients, and with some specific characteristics of telemedicine while being part of nursing practice. The Purpose of the study is to explore 1) how technology constitutes, and is constituted by, the relationship between patient and nurse in teleconsultations; and 2) how teleconsultations are perceived by patients and nurses. The study has been conducted as a postphenomenological analysis of empirical data collected from fieldwork, focusing on telecare consultations between specialist nurses and patients. Study findings show that patients and nurses alike consider technology-mediated nursing consultations as qualified care, enabling a close relationship between patient and nurse. Technological mediation of nursing practices changes the way nurses perform and it also changes their professional identity. The nurses compensate for a lack of physical presence with patient by amplifying their audio-visual perceptions, communicative skills and by including the patient as their assistant. Correspondingly, their patients take on an active role in observation and measurement of their condition, and their self-image changes accordingly for them to become actively self-managing patients.