

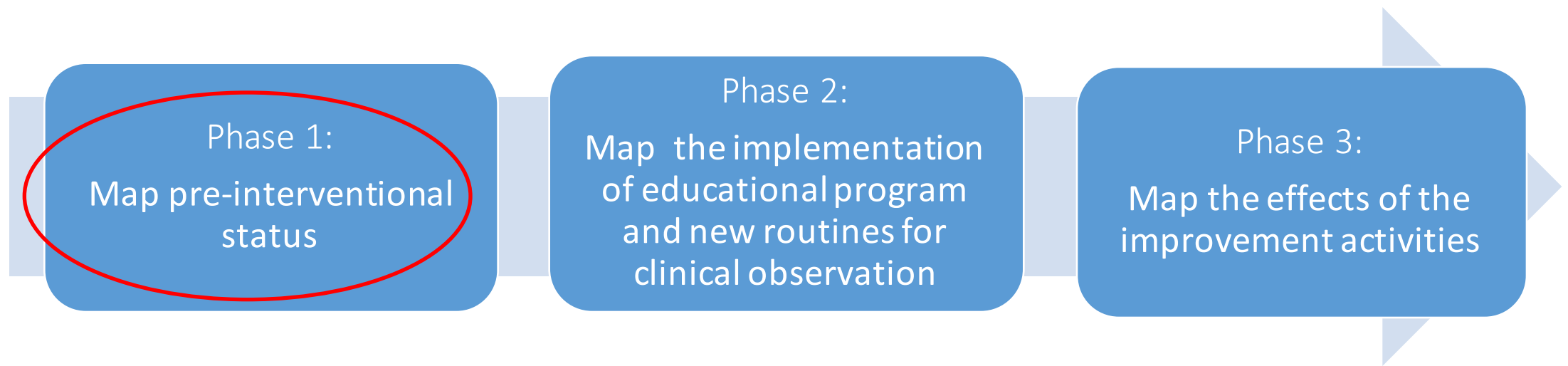
# Healthcare professionals' observational practice of deteriorating older patients in homecare - a qualitative study.

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# Study

- The PhD study will evaluate an improvement project entitled “In Safe Hands - early recognition and management of frail older patients in community healthcare”
- Two homecare districts in two municipalities
- A longitudinal design



# Background

- Shift in healthcare, from specialized healthcare to primary healthcare (Genet, et al. 2013).
- Increase in frail older patients with complex needs (Boerma, 2010; Gautun & Hermansen, 2011).
- Important with active observation, early recognition and interventions related to the patients' potential or deteriorating conditions (Odell, et al., 2009).
- Gaps in competencies among healthcare professionals in their ability to understand clinical judgment and reasoning (Cappelletti, et al., 2014, Bing-Jonsson, et al., 2015).

# Aim

To explore healthcare professionals' observational work practices of deteriorating frail older patients in two homecare settings.

# A qualitative design

- Non-participant observation
  - Shadowing homecare professionals\*
    - \*Skilled and non skilled health workers
  - 32 hours - municipality A, 30 hours - municipality B
- Qualitative content analysis (Graneheim & Lundman, 2003)

# Observational work practices in homecare

1. Task-oriented according to pre-planned work plans
2. Knowledge of the patient
3. Patient communication
4. Variability in systematic observation

*The work plan instructs the skilled health worker to measure the patient's blood pressure this morning. The patient did not feel well when homecare visited her yesterday. She was dizzy and unwell, yet vital signs were not measured. Blood pressure measurement was then included as a task on the next day's work plan.*

*to stop while walking and she rests holding on to the table.*

*The nurse sits by the patient talking about the use of homecare, nutrition, etc*

*The*

# Summary

- Systematic observations of deterioration are limited
- Task orientation



We're up for questions & comments!