Promoting Health, Leading Change: Cardiothoracic Surgery Specialty Nurse Education

Tse KT, Hui YC, Li WC, To PM
Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery (CTSD), Queen Mary Hospital (QMH)

Keywords:
Specialty Nurse Education
Cardiac Surgical Nursing
Nursing Career Pathway

Introduction
In 2012, the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery of QMH developed, designed and conducted a new post-registration certificate course (PRCC) in Cardiac Surgical Nursing. Registered Nurses (RN) in CTSD were encouraged to attend.

Objectives
1/ To promote a nursing career pathway for RNs to become a specialty nurse in cardiothoracic surgery; 2/ To develop a high standard of specialized nursing care for the critically ill patients.

Methodology
We developed 16 RNs, who were sponsored by CTSD for the PRCC in Cardiac Surgical Nursing, being organized by the Hospital Authority, Institute of Advanced Nursing Studies (IANS) and QMH from June 2012 to November 2012.

Result
The Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Queen Mary Hospital sponsored 16 RNs to attend and successfully pass all of the course assessments and examination. The mean age was 28 (range 24 to 35) years. Subjects (n=13, 81%) were female while (n=3, 19%) were male. Their clinical nursing experience is ranging from 2 to 12 years. They were granted 11 study days and 10 weeks clinical practicum which benefited course members in consolidating their knowledge by getting their hands on experience and practicing what they were taught in lectures. Of 16 RNs who joined the PRCC in cardiac surgical nursing program, 93% found the experience valuable, 93% enjoyed a good variety of clinical cases and 92% satisfied with the clinical placement. Having completed the specialty nurse training with post-course clinical consolidation, 14 (88%) RNs achieved the title of RN - specialty nurse in...
cardiothoracic surgery in June 2014 and 2 (12%) RNs would be qualified to apply for the title of RN - specialty nurse status in December 2015. Nursing manpower was also improved from 92 in 2010 to 110 in 2012 because of the development of cardiothoracic surgery specialty nursing program which attracted more newly qualified RNs to join the department. A total of two outstanding clinical continuous quality improvement projects were submitted to various healthcare conferences which were awarded poster or oral presentations from Hospital Authority Conventions and University of Hong Kong. Cardiothoracic surgery specialty nurse education proved to be a successful program to enhance better quality patient care. Nursing career pathway for RNs to become specialty nurse in cardiothoracic surgery has been better developed.