Emerging Roles of Geriatric Nurse on Dementia Care in Acute Geriatric Setting and Integrated Cognitive Assessment Clinic (ICAC), UCH.

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Introduction
Dementia is recognized as a significant problem since the last decade. It can lower a person’s quality of life and exerts a burden to healthcare services. It is considered that nurses working in the acute geriatric setting can improve health outcomes of people with dementia and their carers in hospital. Nurse can contribute in improving patient and family experience, optimizing patient outcome, reducing length of stay and preventing adverse events such as falls, and providing education to carers. Besides, geriatric nurses can take up more roles to coordinate care and manage cases suffering from dementia in both in- and out-patient settings.

Objectives
1. To enhance knowledge of geriatric nurse in management of dementia
2. To enhance geriatric nurse in professional development

Methodology
☐ An intensive education and training program on dementia care was provided through regular journal sharing sessions and case conferences. ☐ Also, a Nursing Session of ICAC was developed for assessing patients with suspected mild cognitive impairment. Comprehensive cognitive, functional and behavioral assessments were performed according to protocol and impression and recommendations would be suggested. Endorsement and feedbacks would be given by doctors. ☐ In the past year, nurses actively participated in the validation study of a new cognitive assessment tool and considered potentially useful therapy from research such as doll therapy. ☐ During in-patient admission, nurses would assess patients’ cognitive conditions and caring stress with assessment tools. They would implement appropriate managements such as providing clinical advices to carers of demented patients with behavioral problems, allowing sitters, providing related information on
community resources to reduce patients’ stress due to hospitalization and carers’ stress.

**Result**
Geriatric nurses enabled the multi-disciplinary team to work effectively and ensured that the services were patient-centered. The expanding role of geriatric nurse brought about a positive change to the workplace and culture for management of dementia. It also facilitated ongoing development of clinical practice, e.g., regular reality orientation, minimizing use of restrainers and better use of community resources. Staffs were competent in providing comprehensive assessment and recommendations for patients and carers, and managing dementia in hospital. Also, positive feedbacks from staff satisfaction were gained.