

Corporate Scholarship Presentations

C3.2

Chronic Disease Management

14:30 Room 428

Overseas Corporate Scholarship Programme for Clinical Leaders in Gerontology Nursing – Inspiration from Bournemouth in Dementia and Delirium Care: Putting into Practice

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Aging population is one of the well-known global challenges faced by all healthcare professions. Bournemouth, one of the small aging towns in the United Kingdom (UK), is not an exceptional. In addition, due to the shortage of healthcare professionals, the situation is further aggravated, especially in dementia and delirium care. This is always a major issue focused by the geriatric team in Bournemouth.

As delirium is often under-diagnosed or mismanaged, all patients over 75 years of age admitted non-electively will be screened for delirium upon admission in Bournemouth. Appropriate management and education will be initiated to those diagnosed patients and their caregivers by delirium nurse specialists through a standardised care pathway. In addition, they also provide additional support and advice to those patients and their family when they return home so that it can facilitate early discharge and reduce re-admission.

As person-centred care is well developed and widely used in daily practice in UK, nurses and other allied health professionals pay a lot of time and effort on interacting with dementia patients and their caregiver, aiming at empower them to formulate a tailor-made care plan. Besides, a “life dairy” recording all the details of patients is well used to promote communication between patients and healthcare providers during hospitalisation.

In order to adopt those good practices from UK, we launched two clinical quality improvement programmes in this aspect. Firstly, a Delirium and Dementia Assessment Team was established which focused on early detection, early intervention and early discharge for patients with onset of cognitive change in acute geriatric setting. Secondly, a Delirium-caring Culture Nurturing Programme (DCNP) was optimised to strengthen the knowledge and awareness of nurses on delirium care.