Nurses’ Views on Enhancing Patient Discharge by Specific Educational Program

Man SL(1), Au Yeung PY Pearl(1), Lee YL(1), Chan Y(1), Poon YK Crystal(1), Lam TM(1), Wong SH(1), Chan PY(1), Lam LS(1)
(1) Geriatric and Rehabilitation Service, Haven of Hope Hospital

Introduction
Patients and family caregivers (Pt&Fc) often feel stressed about the care after discharge, which is a barrier to discharge effectively. To reduce their stress, a specific educational program was initiated and conducted by nurses for enhancing their knowledge on the illnesses and care. The specific topics were focused on 'Diabetes care', 'Osteoporosis, and Fall prevention', 'Incontinence care and Prevention of pressure injury', 'Dementia care', and 'Post hip arthroplasty care'. Training notes were also developed and provided to them. From May 2016 to November 2017, the program was conducted biweekly with total 256 Pt&Fc joined and 39 sessions were completed. Feedback collected from Pt&Fc via a questionnaire and the result was positive. Pt&Fc agreed that this program enhanced their knowledge on illnesses and nursing care, and reduced their pre-discharge stress. However, the success of this program mainly depends on nurses input, such as preparing the program contents, recruiting Pt&Fc, and conducting the talks. Thus, it is important for collecting nurses feedback to further enhancing this program.

Objectives
This study aims to explore the views of nurses on the implementation of this program.

Methodology
A survey was conducted. Nurses of G&R service were asked to answer five questions using a Likert Scale from 0 (totally disagree) to 4 (totally agree). Data was analyzed by SPSS. Mean and frequency were computed.

Result
Fifty-four nurses participated in this survey. The implementation of the educational program were showed very successful (mean scores of all items are above 3). They agreed that the frequency of conducting this program was appropriate, and were satisfied with the program contents. They also agreed that the program was effective in reducing Pt&Fc’s pre-discharge stress, and reducing nurses’ workload in educating the contents separately to Pt&Fc. The continuation of this program was highly supported by nurses. It is encouraging that nurses have very positive feedback on the educational program.
Findings show that the educational program is not only beneficial to Pt&Fc, but also to nurses themselves. Evaluating the outcome of the new initiatives program from patients, families and nurses’ perspectives is important for further successful development.