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Structural Transfusion Training Programme for Nurses in Hong Kong West Cluster (HKWC)

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Introduction

In the undergraduate nursing curriculum, only basic knowledge in transfusion is taught. Subsequent on-the-job training on transfusion for the nursing profession focuses mainly on operational issues: steps in the transfusion process involving nurses. Further education on transfusion is provided to participants of Post-Registration Certificate Course in Haematology Nursing. Access to transfusion training is rather limited to most nurses. To ensure the quality of the evolving transfusion practice, especially in the setting of a teaching hospital providing quaternary care to patients, and prepare for the implementation of Patient Blood Management (PBM) in HKWC, a more structural training programme for nurses will be needed.

Objectives

To set up a structured transfusion training programme for nurses to provide a sound knowledge basis for development of transfusion service in HKWC.

Methodology

The programme, coordinated by the Transfusion Safety Officer of HKWC, was developed after consultation of nursing professionals in the Cluster and clinical and laboratory haematologists. The programme comprised three parts with different themes: 1) Operation-based: standard operation procedures (blood collection for type & screen by endorsed nurses, operation of Remote Blood Release System), 2) Knowledge-based: transfusion knowledge course for nurses in hospitals with infrequent transfusion activity comprising the opportunity of on-job training (transfusion training Blocks (block 1: transfusion 101 covering basic transfusion knowledge & standard transfusion practice; block 2: how to effectively communicate with hospital blood bank & block 3: recognition and management of adverse transfusion reactions), and 3) annual competence assessment programme on transfusion knowledge (collaborating with Central Nursing Department) with annual review of multiple-choice questions and provision of feedbacks.

Result

More than 200 nurses were trained since implementation of the programme from 2007. The programme was effective, building a sustainable transfusion team with active participation of nurses in essential operations like type & screen and even blood issue. Consolidation of transfusion knowledge facilitated the implementation of improvement initiatives related to transfusion service. Questions on PBM were incorporated in the assessment to fill the potential knowledge gap. The training programme evolved throughout the past 10 years, highlighting the increasing complexity and specialization in transfusion practice. The value of introducing transfusion nurses to upkeep quality of transfusion service became more apparent.