



Service Priorities and Programmes
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EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM ON DISCHARGE MEDICATION FOR PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

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Introduction

Children suffering from cancer require multiple medications including oral chemotherapy, corticosteroids, immunosuppressants and so on. Empowerment of knowledge of discharge medication for children and their families is crucial to ensure safety and quality care. It can also shorten hospitalization, promote their quality of life and sense of control.

Objectives

The objectives of this empowerment program are to enhance medication knowledge and compliance of patients and their families before discharge. In turn to achieve family-centered care and to improve patients' and their families' satisfaction on discharge medication information.

Methodology

Children with acute leukaemia and their parents were recruited in the pilot study in July 2016. A test with 13 questions about indication, precautions and side effects of medication was developed. These children and their parents first underwent a pre-education test for baseline assessment. Education booklet was then provided to enrich their knowledge. Education board was designed to promote the information and education on discharge medication. A post education test was then given to measure outcomes, a satisfactory survey was given after individual education. From February 2017 to June 2017, this program rolled out to all in-patients and their families except those with no home medication. Comparison was made between the pre and post intervention assessments for this group of patients and parents.

Result

5 convenient samples were recruited in the pilot study and 20 samples in phase 2 study, which included 3 patient and 22 parents. The scores in both the pilot study and phase 2 study significantly increased. The mean score of the post-test increased by 45% after reading the booklet compared with the mean score of the pre-test. The correct rates of each of the 13 questions were increased in both the pilot study and phase 2 study, significant improvement was noted in most questions. The difference

in test performance was also compared among patient, father and mother. Children and their families satisfied with this program. They appreciated effort of nurses on explanation of discharge medication. The program had revealed several concerns of patients and parents on home medication management.