



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Active Steps to Enhance Wellness of Surgical Staff in EOL Care

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Introduction

Walking with those in suffer is one of the noble missions of all health care professionals. Yet even for the veterans, it's difficult to embrace the emotional surge caused by the death of patients let alone to console and to assist those survive. In light of this, a group of passionate nursing colleagues has formed End-of-Life (EOL) Care Workgroup helping our colleagues and target patient groups to handle their physical and emotional needs in face of 'Death'.

Objectives

(1) To address the emotional and psychological needs of targeted patients, their relatives and our frontline staff in Surgery Department; (2) To provide knowledge, skills and support to ease the psychological stress among our nursing colleagues.

Methodology

(1) Knowledge Enhancement

(1.1) A departmental survey was conducted to figure out the understanding and concerns in EOL care among nurses; then, cooperated with Palliative team and Medical Social worker to tailor-make an internal education program for surgical nursing staff; furthermore, for those who could not attend the program, respective ward representatives had given summarized version of the training program for internal sharing;

(1.2) Nurse Consultant (Palliative Care) facilitates working group members monthly to review complicated cases in our department during PC round, which is then opened to all nursing staff.

(2) Psychological Aspect A self-administered questionnaire 'Formmelt Attitude Towards Care of Dying Scale (FATCOD)' was distributed to allow nursing staff to reflect their individual attitude toward 'Death'.

(3) Develop Care Reminder With reference from similar reminders, a 'Nursing Care Reminder for Patients with Advanced Life-threatening Illness' had been developed for

our department with audit after trail period.

Result

(1) Survey with Likert Scale conducted after the program revealed positive and encouraging results. They expressed less stress and more confident with those knowledge and skills.

(2) The study using FATCOD revealed that:

(i) Years of nursing experience had no effect on FATCOD score;

(ii) Unexpectedly, 50% of the respondents were uncomfortable to talk about impending death and 89.6% of respondents hoped to be absent when the patients they cared for died.

(3) The compliance rate of the care reminder was 92.8% and it was revised to be more user-friendly.