



Service Priorities and Programmes
Electronic Presentations

Convention ID: 431

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Palliative care service for End-stage renal failure

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Keywords:

end stage renal failure

palliative care service

Introduction

OLMH palliative care (PC) service provides holistic care to patients whose disease is progressive, at an advanced stage and not responsive to curative treatment. It aims to achieve best quality of life for patients and their families. The service was established since 1982 for patients with terminal malignancies. In 2011, it was extended to patients with end-stage renal failure (ESRF).

Objectives

Extension of non-cancer palliative care service to patients with end-stage renal failure

Methodology

•OLMH Renal PC service was set up since May 2011 by adopting the PC model for cancer patients. It provides an option other than life-sustaining treatments for end-stage renal failure. •The service includes in-patient consultation, out-patient clinic, home care service, as well as bereavement support. Patients are assessed by a multidisciplinary team consists of PC physician, nurses, social workers and allied health staff. Regular case conferences are conducted. •Referrals are accepted from OLMH and other hospitals for patients residing in Kowloon area. Criteria and referral procedure are outlined in OLMH Guidelines for Palliative Care Referral, which was revised and endorsed by the Department of Medicine and Geriatrics in May 2012. •Educational pamphlets are designed on topics such as diet advice and drug handling. •In 2012/13, OLMH aims at offering 120 quotas for new cases, as well as more than 1,000 consultations and home care visits (by doctor and nurses) for renal PC patients.

Result

• Patients under renal palliative care receive regular symptom control, psychosocial care, quality of life assessment, advance care planning and bereavement support. • Medical and nursing staff was informed about the revised referral procedure during Departmental Meeting in December 2011. • Up to December 2012, a total of 139 new cases are accepted into renal PC service. The consultative visits provided by doctor and nurses are 649 and 629 respectively. Besides, 544 home care visits are given. Service statistics are reviewed regularly by the Kowloon West Cluster PC

Coordinating Committee.