



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Submitting author: Ms Wai Yee LEE

Post title: Advanced Practice Nurse, Haven of Hope Hospital, KEC

Enhance 'End of Life Care'(EOL) through TOL program and Bereavement care in Infirmarary patients

Ho, LK (1)(2), Chiu, WM(1)(2), Lee, WY(1)(2)

Infirmarary Service, Haven of Hope Hospital

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Introduction

The Infirmarary in Haven of Hope Hosptial admitted very frail patients with terminal malignancies and various end stage diseases and organ failure. The mortality rate is generally higher. Bereavement care during the end of life is very important to relatives and patients. Studies had showed that ineffective coping and increased patinet's level of immobility and symptoms increased carers' depression, and they may ignore their own health needs during these situations. Promoting the care during the time when the patient entering the dying process and enhancing bereavement care for carers are essential in the immediate comfort of patients as well as the support of relatives in difficult times.

Objectives

The aim is to have a better support to the carers when the patients entering the dying process, to enhance the patients and carers' coping, and to have a comprehensive symptoms control approach to the terminal ill patients, so that these patients and carers can have a better coping during these stressful and grief situations.

Methodology

Before the program, a smiple semi-structured survey was conducted to review the ward staff's view towards care in EOL, and assess their limitations, stressors and fears during the care. The a series of training and sharing by Palliative care team and Medical Social Worker were conducted to introduce the concept of EOL and Bereavement Care. The program is a multi-team approach. When the patient entered the dying process, the staff would communicate with the senior nurses and MO in-charge, and to alert the carers, so that more frequent vistis can be arranged. For patients with terminal malignancies, a consensus should be made between the doctors and nurses that the patient is perceived th have life expectancy within one week, and the Palliative Care team is alerted to review for the patient's treatment regime, including symptom assessment and control. In communicating with hte relatives, the nurses would assess their grief and coping. For perceived abnormal

grief or patients with complicated social problems, bereavement care is started. Other than the psychological support and patient comfort management, the Infirmity nurses would alert the MSW for the bereavement care, with the help of clinical psychologist and chaplain if needed.

Result

Up till Feb., 2013, total 27 cancer patients were referred for EOL program and assessed, and total 30 cases were referred for Bereavement care. Including EOL care and Bereavement Program during patients' end of life process helps to promote patients' comfort, enhance carer support, and may help to prevent unfavorable conditions such as depression and guilt.