



Service Priorities and Programmes
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What are the pressing psychogeriatric service needs in the subvented residential care home for the elderly in Hong Kong?

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Introduction

NTEC is well-known for its large catchment area and growing number of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHE). Limited psychogeriatric outreach service has been provided to the subvented RCHEs via psychiatric OPDs of NDH and PWH for more than a decade. Each year, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) would invite psychogeriatric teams in Hong Kong to verify the application of the residents who have a diagnosis of dementia and have fulfilled the criteria for dementia supplement. We observed that residents of the RCHEs are frail with complex psychiatric needs and staffs of the RCHEs encounter frequent care problems, especially with residents with dementia. As reflected by the number of application for dementia supplement (DS) among the subvented RCHEs, the proportion of their residents suffering from dementia is escalating. It might lead to increasing carer stress, reduced quality of life of residents, frequent psychiatric referrals, and hospital admissions.

Objectives

To explore the home and staff profiles and to map the service needs in the subvented RCHEs in NTEC for better psychiatric service provision.

Methodology

Regular service statistics were collected for the psychogeriatric outreach service in NTEC. The number of new applications for dementia supplement across different subvented RCHEs was collected. The type of Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD) which caused significant work stress among RCHE staff was mapped by a structured questionnaire (Neuropsychiatric Inventory-Nursing Home version) in 2011. A satisfaction survey was conducted in December 2012.

Result

Current psychogeriatric outreach services cover 25 subvented RCHEs and 4 day centres for the elderly in NTEC. A new subvented RCHE with high bed capacity was built within the catchment area of NTEC last year. A couple of elderly hostels which

had undergone “transformation” into a care-and-attention home did not receive any outreach support. On average, more than 60% of the residents among the RCHes suffered from dementia. There were more than 250 new applications for dementia supplement in NTEC annually in the past few years. The majority of them had received additional resources from the SWD successfully. Staff of the subvented RCHes reported high work stress for “externalized” BPSD e.g. aggression and sleep problem. They were satisfied with psychogeriatric outreach service for on-site support and reducing congestion in logistics at SOPDs but they requested more training and psychogeriatric outreach services. More manpower and resource should be allocated to psychogeriatric outreach service.