End of life care: A cluster approach training programme for supporting staff at all levels and facets

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Introduction
Quality end of life care should be a continuation of care at varies facets for a patient facing death and his/her family. An concerted effort of all levels of staff around the whole hospital or even beyond is required. Professional staff might have certain trainings in this regard but supporting staff, who are the ones to stay closely with this group of patients along the journey, might find it challenging to meet the very different needs of them due to lack of knowledge or skills.

Objectives
To provide basic training in end of life care both in theories and skills, to all ranks of supporting staff, including Health Care Assistants, Portering staff, Mortuary staff and Death Documentation Officer.

Methodology
A cluster approach training plan where 3 identical training sessions had been organized in the three hospitals. The 1 hour intensive training included 15 minutes in theory and 45 minutes in small group workshop led by experienced professional staff invited from KEC.

Result
A total of 140 supporting colleagues had attended the training. Course evaluation scored high at more than 5 with 6 as the maximum. Most participants agreed that the training enabled them to deliver care to dying patients and their relatives. Some stressed that own awareness to the needs of this group of client had been greatly enhanced.