



**Service Priorities and Programmes
Electronic Presentations**

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Submitting author: Ms Lai Ha LEE

Post title: Advanced Practice Nurse, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, KCC

Project improves nurses' knowledge on chemotherapy in clinical oncology department

Leung WYC (1), Lee LH (1)

(1) Clinical Oncology Department, Queen Elizabeth Hospital

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Introduction

Chemotherapy is one of the major modalities of cancer treatment in clinical oncology department. Ongoing education for the nursing workforce is necessary to ensure currency of knowledge to enable evidenced base patient care. A project to improve nurses' knowledge on chemotherapy was initiated. In order to design a relevant and appropriate training program, a 2 phase process that guided the project included surveying nurses' learning needs on chemotherapy and providing training program based on the identified needs were involved.

Objectives

1. To survey the chemotherapy learning needs of the nurses in clinical oncology department
2. To develop chemotherapy training program to nurses based on the identified learning needs
3. To evaluate the training program

Methodology

To survey the learning needs of registered nurses within our department, an anonymous questionnaire was used to collect the data from 1 Oct to 31 Oct, 2012. The working group of the project then developed the training program to nurses based on the identified learning need. Pre- and post-tests were used to measure knowledge gained from participating in the training program. Nurses were asked to complete the test questions before start and upon completion of each workshop.

Result

Total 56 questionnaires were distributed and returned, the response rate was 100%. 58% nurses and 35% nurses had more than 5 years and less than 2 years oncology working experiences respectively. The survey found agreement on learning needs and also noted differing opinions among different length working experiences of nurses in oncology department. As a result, the working group of the project decided to implement different level of training programs to ensure that unique learning needs could be met. The first elementary level training program, included 4 workshops with 11 identical sessions, was held from September to December 2013. The training program covered the topics based on the identified learning needs of nurses with less

than 2 years oncology working experiences. The topics were safe handling of cytotoxic drug, central venous catheter care for chemotherapy patients and management of common chemotherapy related side effects. Most of the nurses with less than 2 years working experiences in oncology department attended all four workshops. Furthermore, the pre-test and post test findings indicated average 2.7-point to 3.4-point increase in knowledge for the nurses after the workshops. This suggested the program had positive effect on changing knowledge.