



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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### **Supporting Patients with Advanced Disease in Their Preferred Place of Care- Efficacy of Palliative Home Care Service of United Christian Hospital**

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#### **Keywords:**

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#### **Introduction**

Home is reported as the most preferred place of care among cancer patients and their family members. Our previous study showed that 37.2% of patients with advanced cancer wished to stay at home in the pre-terminal period (Hong et al., 2010). Palliative home care nurse (HCN) provides holistic care for patients with advanced disease in the community, to support them staying at home as long as possible. With service extended to advanced organ failure since 2010, the palliative home care service (PHCS) of United Christian Hospital (UCH) faces the challenge of patients with different disease trajectories.

#### **Objectives**

To review the efficacy of PHCS of UCH on supporting patients with advanced disease to stay in the community as long as possible. Outcome measures include: 1) Length of stay (LOS) of last/death episode of hospitalization, 2) no. of non-hospitalized days in the last six months of patient's life.

#### **Methodology**

Palliative Care (PC) patients of UCH died from September to November of 2015 were retrospectively reviewed. All episodes of hospitalization over the last six months of life of patients with UCH PHCS and those without PHCS were retrieved from Electronic Patient Record (ePR) and analyzed.

#### **Result**

There were 87 PC patients identified. 64 (74%) of them received UCH PHCS while 23 (26%) of them did not. 65 (75%) of them had advanced cancer while 22 (25%) of them had advanced organ failure as their primary diagnosis. The LOS of their last hospitalization ranged from 1 to 78 days. The average LOS of their last hospitalization was 12 days for those with PHCS (10 days for cancer patients and 19.1 days for non-cancer patients) and 24.4 days for those without PHCS (18.1 days for cancer patients and 38.3 days for non-cancer patients). The average number of non-hospitalized days in their last six months of life was 141.2 days for patients with PHCS (142.2 days for cancer patients and 138 days for non-cancer patients) and 131.1 days for those without PHCS (140.5 days for cancer patients and 104.5 days for

non-cancer patients). In conclusion, the average LOS of the last hospitalization was shorter and the average number of non-hospitalized days in the last six months of life was longer in cancer and non-cancer patients with PHCS. Therefore, UCH PHCS is efficacious in keeping patients with advanced disease staying at home longer than patients without PHCS in their last six months of life.