



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Experiencing Life beyond Infirmary

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Introduction

Patients staying in infirmary service are those with irreversible chronic illnesses who require continuous medical and nursing care on top of the total dependency on their activities of daily living. Many of them are bed-ridden or wheel-chair bound. Apart from routine physical care, there is little that we can provide to them. Yet through interaction, we have found them to be responsive to different stimuli which are familiar to them, such as song, music, story, film and people. Most of the time, their response is not merely behavioral but emotional as well.

Objectives

Engaging individual community members as resources to address the social, emotional and spiritual need of patients in infirmary who are under physical restraint body. This innovative project aims at training volunteers to identify and provide these stimuli to the patients through relationship building and tailor-made activities. Apart from the patients, their families/carers will be involved throughout this new project. Through this, it is considered that they would discover their loved ones have not only physical but also social, emotional and spiritual needs and there are ways to join them to experience life beyond the restraint of the physical disability. Through this project, it is believed not only the patients, families/carers would benefit. The volunteers through their work, people with severe irrecoverable illnesses would also benefit from their valuable opportunities of contacting life from a very different perspective.

Methodology

Volunteers will be recruited and trained in skills in working with patients in infirmary. Each of the selected volunteers will be assigned to work with 1 to 2 patients on a continuous basis. The objectives are: i) relationship building, ii) identifying the social, emotional and spiritual needs of the patient and iii) arranging the provision of the stimuli through appropriate activities. The volunteers will be fully backed up by staff during the process. Apart from individual work, festival event will be organized for the patient, relatives and the hospital staff for celebration.

Result

Festival celebration and bedside befriending service has been implemented regularly,

the number of activities was measured and activity products (e.g. drawing, music recorded etc.) collected. The plan for individual patients has been piloted. Post-activity evaluation questionnaire for volunteers; Feedback and satisfaction survey from the patients and families/carers to be collected by staff.