



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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**Title: A Hospital and Community Service Collaboration Pilot Program:
Therapeutic Programs for Community-Dwelling Elderly with Dementia**

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Introduction

This was a collaboration project between the Department of Psychiatry and Occupational Therapy Department of North District Hospital (NDH) with the Day Care Center (DCC) of YWCA on a new dementia service delivery model. The focus of this study was on how the continuity of care for elderly with dementia between hospital and NGO could be assured through structured interfacing mechanism and standardization of the practices. The major components of this service collaboration model include psychiatric and occupational therapy (OT) consultation, assessment and training prescription in hospital, and training implementation by the NGO. Psychiatrist and OT provided training to the social workers, program workers and personal care workers of the NGO in dementia handling, and conduction of cognitive training that was the treatment focus chosen for this project. OT also advised on the set up therapeutic environment and equipment on the cognitive training prescribed.

Objectives

To explore the feasibility of a new dementia collaboration service delivery model for enhancing better use of clinical and rehabilitative expertise of hospital and effective continuity of training from hospital to community.

Methodology

Target participants were elderly out-patients with mild to moderate dementia of NDH. To examine the feasibility of the model, questionnaires and focus groups were conducted to collect the staffs' opinion before and after the project. Patients' performance recordings were reviewed. On-site visits by the OT were made to observe and advise the NGO staff in their implementation of the program prescribed. Feedback from the care-givers of the participants was also collected after the project. Standardized assessments were conducted to measure the changes of recruited participants before and after the program.

Result

A total of 14 eligible patients completed the project from August 2014 to April 2015. The NGO staff were able to deliver all the prescribed cognitive training and complete the performance records for patients. Feedback from staff revealed that they found themselves more competent both in delivering the training and in handling the elderly with dementia. All care-givers commented positively on the project. They also noticed improvements of the patients after the project. Assessment results of CMMSE, CHDS, CNPI & CDAD showed that performance of all the patients in cognitive, behavioral and functional areas were maintained ($p > 0.05$). The results and experience from this pilot project suggested that the service collaboration project between hospital and NGO for patients with dementia might be feasible in terms of its acceptability, practicability and efficacy in facilitating the continuity of cognitive training from hospital to NGO. Further study involving more participants and NGOs as well as other rehabilitation areas are required to confirm its feasibility and effectiveness.