Promoting holistic care in Haematology unit

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Keywords:
Holistic care
communication skills
Close relationship with patient and relatives
staff engagement
haematology unit

Introduction
Haematology patients usually suffer from the symptoms of haematology disease and complications of treatment. They always need to stay in hospital for long period to receive treatment and blood cell count recovery. Through the patient journey, patient and relatives would have different behavioral and emotional response once being diagnosed. As a nurse, it is important to provide not only nursing care related to physical problems, such as medication administration and wound dressing. We also need to concern on the aspects of social, psychological and spiritual care of both patient and relatives. Act as companion with good communication skills can help to relieve anxiety and stress for patients and relatives during hospitalization.

Objectives
To promote holistic care to patients and relatives in Haematology unit.

Methodology
Form a workgroup in Haematology unit
1. Establish a workgroup including 4 nurses in the unit.
2. Set the objectives, training plan and workflow of the program.
3. Provide training to the nursing staff, such as communication skill and counseling skills.
4. Collect feedback from staff and plan follow up actions.
Staff engagement
1. Introduce the objectives of the programme to staff
2. Provide training on the knowledge of caring culture, communication and counseling skills staff.
3. Provide at least 5-minutes communication to each patient and their family members each duty shift. The content can include clinical update on condition, counseling, prayer support, caring issues on daily activities or family problems. Minimize anxiety by clarifying uncertainty and give support and resource on what they need.
4. Refer chaplains for spiritual support when needed.
Result
The program is established in 2014 in our Haematology unit. 20 patients and their family are recruited in the programme since 2014-2016. Positive comment and feedback are collected from patients, relatives and staff. Most of the patients and their relatives expressed that they feel supportive and less stress, during hospitalization. As well as close relationship developed between nurses and patient and their family. Thus, the programme is effectively help the patient and relatives to face the disease and treatment progress.