



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Tripartite Collaboration on Dementia Care in HKWC

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Introduction

Living with dementias is a great challenge to both patients and caregivers due to the debilitating conditions that affect them progressively. The tripartite collaboration among clinical teams, community partners and families can empower them as the active partners in illness management.

Objectives

- 1) Empower patients & caregivers in illness management & caring skills
- 2) Bridge patients & caregivers to appropriate community services timely
- 3) Reduce carers' stress

Methodology

Patients with mild to moderate level of dementia from the Memory Clinic of Queen Mary Hospital and their caregivers were recruited to join the empowerment program. An educational talk on dementia care was delivered by a geriatrician and an occupational therapist and a parallel group about cognitive activities was conducted. Patients were then triaged to appropriate community agencies for service support after the program. The project was characterized by 1) Active Identification of target patients and caregivers; 2) Designated Link Person from Patient Resource Centre for coordination and community networking 3) Feedback System to facilitate communication and case management and 4) Tripartite Collaboration among clinical teams, community partners and families. A "Pre- and Post- test" design was employed for statistical analysis. A p-value of < 0.05 was regarded as statistical significant.

Result

The empowerment program was conducted in September 2016 with 17 patients

(mean age 81) and 30 caregivers (mean age 61) participated. 100% of the subjects agreed that their knowledge on dementia, caring skills and community resources were enriched. 88% of recruited subjects were bridged to non-government organizations to receive various support services. e.g. cognitive training & caregiver support group. Caregiver' stress level was significantly reduced as measured by both Chinese version of the Zarit Burden Interview (C-ZBI) (p -value=0.011) and Self- perceived Stress Scale (p -value=0.027). Both scales were highly correlated (p -value=0.000).

Conclusion

The tripartite collaboration among clinical teams, community partners and families was effective in empowering demented patients, networking them to make use of community resources and reducing carer stress. Further reports with larger sample size are recommended to reiterate the findings of current results.