Sharing of experience on the Nursing Care of the Elderly Clients during their Last 3 weeks of the Imminent Death in a Nursing Home of Hong Kong

Haven of Hope Nursing Home
Role extension of nursing staff in Nursing Home 1999 - 2013

Christine Lam, Operations General Manager, RSE I
The Journey

• A plan for “Dying in Nursing Home” was planned before 1999 and 1st case was served in 2000

• Advocacy for a peaceful death can be achieved for selected person who requires minimal medical interventions and whose life will end predictably (Chan KS 2006)

• 12.5% (90/722 total death) was served in the “Dying in Nursing Home” service (HOHNH 2013)
Role extension of nursing staff in Nursing Home

Management of Death in Hong Kong

• All imminent deaths to send to hospital
• Medical practitioner to pronounce and certify death

Management of Death in UK 1, NSW (Australia) 2 & Ontario (Canada) 3

• RN to pronounce death when death is expected
• Medical practitioner to certify death legally
Applies to hospital and nursing home

(1. UK, 2002)
(2. NSW HD, 1999)
(3. College of Nursing, Ontario 2000)
Legal status (Hong Kong)

- It is lawful for deaths to occur in Nursing Homes in Hong Kong (which is registered under the Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Ordinance Cap 165), provided that the attending medical staff is satisfied with the cause of death. Attending physician has to view the body and to sign the certificate of death (form 18)
Dying in Nursing Home - Pioneer

Nov 2000

Sept 2013

90
Role extension of nursing staff in Nursing Home

2000 to 2013
90 deaths at the nursing home

2007 to 2013
43 deaths for analysis
Role extension of nursing staff in Nursing Home

Profile of the deaths (43)

2007-2013

Year of residency

- <1: 41%
- 1-5: 7%
- 6-10: 12%
- >10: 30%

Age distributions

- 71-80: 19%
- 81-90: 16%
- 91-99: 35%
- >100: 30%
# Role extension of nursing staff in Nursing Home

## Imminent death

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 week</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 weeks</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 weeks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 4 weeks</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weissman 2005
Role extension of nursing staff in Nursing Home

A nursing-led model with participation of multidisciplinary team work

Basic nursing care but crucial process to care provision for the imminent death
Role extension of nursing staff in Nursing Home

Nursing care of the imminent 43 deaths (2007 - 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patent airway</th>
<th>Chest physiotherapy</th>
<th>Suction (Q2H to Q4H)</th>
<th>O2 (2 to 5 lit)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 (37%)</td>
<td>34 (79%)</td>
<td>36 (83%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Role extension of nursing staff in Nursing Home

Nursing care of the imminent 43 deaths (2007 - 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hydration &amp; related observation</th>
<th>Vital signs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Subcutaneously / via naso-gastric feeding | • fever 17 (39%)  
| 4 / 27 (10% / 62%) | • Vomits 4 (10%) |
# Role extension of nursing staff in Nursing Home

## Nursing care of the imminent 43 deaths (2007 - 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pain control &amp; Comfort Care</th>
<th>Wound care</th>
<th>Death time (Shift)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narcotics (oral/subcutaneously)</td>
<td>Bed side nursing care</td>
<td>Bed side nursing care (chronic wound)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Turning</td>
<td></td>
<td>11 (26%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Care of fever</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Care of vomits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Skin care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Oral hygiene</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Continence care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Role extension of nursing staff in Nursing Home

Outcome

1. A good death with dignity and care by familiar faces & family
2. Choice of care by residents and family
3. Better utilisation of the health care resources

Gains

1. Pioneering service in “Dying in Nursing Home” in Hong Kong
2. Extension of nurses’ role in the community
3. A committed professional team for care of the dying
4. Motivated by the trusting relationship with the family
Role extension of nursing staff in Nursing Home

Facts:

• Ageing population

• Health & social integration (Policy address HK 2009)

• Shifting of care to the community for the elderly (Policy address HK 2008)
Role extension of nursing staff in Nursing Home
Thank you