

Promotion of Drug Administration System in Private Nursing Homes in Hong Kong East Cluster

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Introduction:

In the community, a large number of medications were used in private nursing homes (PNH). This raised a significant concern on the drug administration system. Poor drug administration system can cause medication error and thus, the morbidity and mortality of the residents increase. A joint project of HKE-CGAS with the Outreach Pharmacy Service, HAHO was implemented proactively in 2001 to promote the drug administration system in PNH in HKE Cluster.

Purpose of the Project:

1. To promote an appropriate drug administration system in PNH in HKE cluster
2. To enhance the continuous implementation of the drug administration system in PNH
3. To foster the partnership between PNH and hospitals

Material & Methods:

A *nursing discharge summary* with the information of the drugs were issued to each resident upon their discharged from hospitals. CGAS nurses would then *check the discharge medication* with the respective nursing home staff.

Briefing sessions were conducted to recruit nursing homes to join the project voluntarily. Then *educational workshops* were conducted and *'train the trainer' approach* was adopted. At the same time, *educational kit* was distributed to each nursing home to facilitate the dissemination of standardized information. The *guideline on drug administration procedure* was promoted to enhance compliance to the drug administration procedure. A standardized *medication record* was introduced to enhance the accurate recording and as a mean of communication between PNH and the team. *On-site demonstration and recommendations* were carried out in order to standardize the practice, tailor-made an individualized medication storage system, assist in complying with guidelines, monitor the implementation and provide practical and emotional support to nursing home staff. *Audits* were performed thereafter to assess the successfulness of this project.

Results:

85% of PNH in HKE Cluster adopted this drug administration system. Staff's knowledge on medications, the compliance rates on drug administration procedure, medication recording and drug storage were increased significantly. The overall score on drug administration system was improved from 79% to 85%.

Conclusions:

There was a significant improvement on the drug administration system in the PNH. It was expected that all PNHs would adopt this system in the near future. However, barriers for the continuity of this system were identified. These included busy workload, the high turnover rate, insufficient financial support and the various educational levels of the staff hampered the effectiveness of this system.