

Visiting Medical Practitioners Program and beyond – A Synergy for the Benefit of Residents in the Residential Care Home for the Disabled

Chu D W S¹

Institution : Caritas Lok Shing Hostel ,

Department of Family Medicine & Primary Healthcare¹

Fu Hong Society Hing Wah Centre

Fu Hong Society Ching Lan Home & Oi Wah Home

Fu Hong Society Rehabilitation Centre

Hong Chi Oi Tung Hostel

Lei Tung Lutheran Day Activity Centre / Hostel

St. James' Settlement, Sunny Residence & Sunny Integrated Team

St. James' Settlement, Parkside Residence & Parkside Integrated Team

The Spastic Association of Hong Kong, Chai Wan Hostel

The Spastic Association of Hong Kong, Erik Kvan Hostel

TWGHs Jockey Club Rehabilitation Complex

Yan Chai Hospital Sheung Wan Rehabilitation Service Centre

Introduction:

In 2006 the Social Welfare Department introduced a VMP Scheme for the subvented Residential Care Homes for the Disabled (RCHDs). In Hong Kong Islands all the RCHDs service operators found difficulty in soliciting private GP for this scheme and sought out help from the Department of Family Medicine and Primary Healthcare for service provision. Since most of these residents were being cared by the GOPCs for various episodic and chronic illnesses, it was decided we would expand the scope of coverage to include chronic illness follow-up in order to maximize the benefit of the cooperation.

Purpose of the Project:

To test out a new model of providing VMP service to residents of RCHDs to demonstrate and document the extent of benefit of this scheme.

Material & Methods:

VMP visits schedule arranged according to number of residents in each home on weekly basis. Doctor will provide episodic care; chronic disease management; site round to provide advice on infection control, medication management; and health education to residents and staff. The workload of doctor was recorded against the number of consultation. The following are recorded : Utilization of other medical services, A&E attendance, hospital admission, fall, drug incidents, infectious disease outbreak.

Results:

Residents, relatives and staff are satisfied with the program because it allows the residents better care and more readily attention. The information sharing with staff is also improved with direct communication. There is significant decrease in utilization of medical care. A&E attendance and admission dropped by 5.2% and 4.3% respectively. Influenza outbreak dropped by 81.8% while affected residents decrease by over 61.5%. GI Infection reduced by 45.9% with affected residents decreased by 62.5%.

Conclusions:

VMP program to RCHDs is a new attempt to provide better care to residents. Involving public primary care doctor and added the element of chronic illness care allow a more comprehensive care to the residents to achieve a better health outcome for them.