



Free Papers Presentation

New Health Care Model – Hospital Services Working with Community Partners as a Team Improves Diabetes Care

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Introduction:

Diabetes mellitus, a life long disease, is epidemic in Hong Kong. It causes many complications and the consequent health care burden is enormous. Our current practice with hospitals and community resources working independently often fails to provide adequate care to people with diabetes. We desperately need a new, effective and cost saving diabetes health care model.

Aims of the Project:

To report on how we started the project and its progress.

Methods:

The diabetes services and the community services of the HKEC hospitals met with NGOs to figure out the project structure and process. As patients were enrolled, the project was fine-tuned to integrate it with the usual diabetes care. Outcome indicators were discussed.

Results:

Four NGOs with experience in diabetes care joined the project and together with the HKEC diabetes services, 24 programmes catering psychological, social and exercise support were designed. Efforts were made to merge these programmes into hospital clinical practices. At 15 months, a total of 840 diabetes patients had participated. Some patients showed marked improvement of their diabetes control. However, difficulties were encountered in implementing the project.

Conclusions:

The new health care model may improve diabetes care, setting off a paradigm shift in the care for chronic diseases. Further studies on the model are needed.