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Hospital-Community Collaboration Project in Dementia Care for Southern Elders (南區耆趣一條龍) – A Evaluation From Nursing Perspective

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Introduction:

Early intervention for dementia elders can reduce the burden for patients, their caregivers, and the society. Hence, developing the Hospital-Community partnership for providing one-stop dementia day care services must be amplified.

Purpose of the Project:

1. To depict and promote the one-stop services of 南區耆趣一條龍
2. To explore the effectiveness of dementia day care service for the dementia elders and their caregivers.

Setting:

Dementia Day Care Centre in Wong Chuk Hang Hospital

Material:

Mini-Mental State Examination and Geriatric Depression Scale short form were used for assessing clients' cognitive functioning and level of depression respectively. Also, State-Trait Anxiety Inventory was employed to measure the anxiety level of the caregivers.

Method:

Descriptive statistics were used to examine the baseline characteristics and profiles of the clients. In addition, paired sample t-tests were used to measure the effectiveness of the project.

Results:

The service of 南區耆趣一條龍 was illustrated in table 1. Since November 2003, 52 referrals were received and 36 clients were arranged for multi-disciplinary assessment. 25 clients were eligible for therapeutic training. And, 4 of discharged clients received day respite services and 11 of them received telephone follow-up services upon completion of training.

The results showed that the levels of life satisfaction and depression of clients, as well as acute and chronic anxiety levels of caregivers reached the level of statistical significance ($P < .05$); whereas the level of life satisfaction for caregivers and client's MMSE scores were not.

Conclusions:

From nursing perspective, building a successful Hospital-community partnership enables the demented clients and caregivers to maintain an optimal psycho-social functioning without the need of institutionalization. Subsequently, while the caregivers can continuously take care of their demented elders at home, the health care burden can also be reduced. Limitation: Limited sample size and lack of randomization. Recommendation: A longitudinal study with RCT is recommended for evaluation of long-term effectiveness of the project.

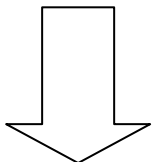
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Table 1

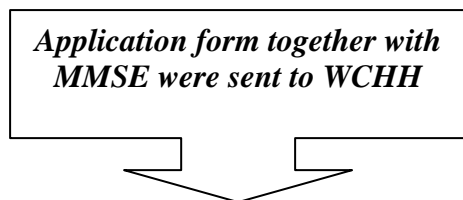
Services of Hospital-Community Collaboration Project in Dementia

Care for Southern Elders (南區耆趣一條龍)

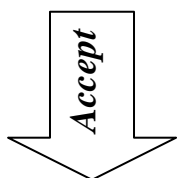
Application via community partners of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)



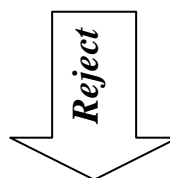
Conduct MMSE Screening by NGOs Social Workers



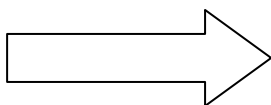
Multidisciplinary Assessment by Wong Chuk Hang Hospital (WCHH)



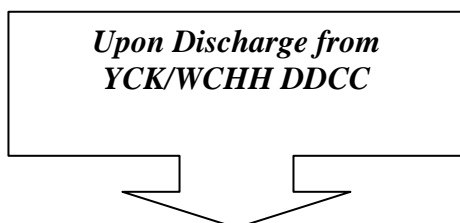
Case Conference



Four-month
therapeutic training
in WCHH
Dementia Day Care



Continue Follow-up by NGOs
OR
Refer to Yu Chun Keung (YCK) for
Day Respite Services for one year



Refer to NGOs for telephone follow-up services
Terminate case if the condition is stable