

Abstract for PCNA Brisbane 7th Biennial Conference: May 20-21, 2018

Title: A resource package supporting nurses to educate carers to manage subcutaneous medicines at home

Theme: Fostering the workforce

Key words: Carers, Education, Primary care

Introduction

In Queensland, a package supporting registered nurses to educate carers to manage subcutaneous medicines for symptom control in community-based palliative patients is in clinical use. This package can be tailored for nation-wide use.

Aim

Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative is leading a national project, *caring@home* – symptom management for palliative patients, which in essence aims to review the existing Queensland package plus develop education resources to support registered nurses to provide education to carers across Australia.

This presentation reports on the outcome of the review of resources.

Method

As part of continuous improvement activities, Metro South Palliative Care Service conducted focus group interviews with registered nurses, both community and specialist palliative care, and with carers.

In addition, an Education Advisory Group for *caring@home*, consisting of pharmacists, palliative care specialist nurses and consumers, reviewed the resources.

The reviewed package is being disseminated for wider consultation.

Findings

The carer resources are needed and highly valued by nurses and carers who report the review should focus on making them ‘less wordy’ and more pictorial.

Nurses agreed that the education provided to carers in the home should be timely, address any anxieties, and target essential information.

It was agreed a standardised nursing education package to support carer education would be beneficial to services. The education should include the evidence base of the resources, and how to conduct education sessions for carers.

Discussion

The carer resources need to be revised to make them more ‘user-friendly’. The education package for nurses needs to address key concepts identified.

Conclusion

Being able to access consistent, easy-to-use resources for carers and education for nurses will have a positive impact for carers and families, services and healthcare systems across Australia by supporting people to die at home if that is their wish.

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