Integrating the Allied Health Workers into the Palliative Care Inter Disciplinary Team

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Pilot programme

- Department of Health - main funder of the Boland Hospice Intermediate Care Facility
- 14 Beds - 2 allocated to rehabilitation (42 days)
- Commitment from the sub district to provide Allied Health Care Professionals for rehabilitation
- Admission criteria - CVA (first)
- Referrals source - Worcester Hospital
So is palliative care relevant to rehab?

WHO definition (2002)

Palliative Care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing problems associated with life threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering, the early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, psychosocial and spiritual.
Some principles of Palliative Care

- Provides relief from pain and other distressing symptoms
- Integrates psychological and spiritual aspects
- Offers a support system to help patients live as actively as possible
- Offers a support system to help the family cope
- Uses a team approach to address patient and family needs
- Will enhance the quality of life
- Is applicable early in the course of illness, in conjunction with other therapies.
Focus areas for rehabilitation patients

- Holistic care - physical, emotional, spiritual, social
- Team approach - Inter-disciplinary not multi-disciplinary
- Support to patient and family
Holistic care

How can Allied Health professionals look beyond just the physical?
Team approaches

Multi-Disciplinary Team

- Group of health professionals
- Own disciplines goals are main priority
- Patient is told of decisions made for their care by the health professionals
- Care planning is discipline specific

Inter-Disciplinary Team

- Team of health professionals
- Patient prioritises the goals
- Patient is the head of the patient care team and provided with information to make health care decisions
- Care planning is integrated
Choosing an IDT approach

- Integrated care planning
- Priorities of care planning
- Providing patients with information and allowing them to make the decisions
Support to patient & family

Difference between giving support and providing care

How to support the family
Challenges to Palliative Care & IDT approach

- Palliative care seen as only for the dying
- Palliative care seen as a specialist teams work
- Personal ego’s don’t allow for a team
- Move from group to team
- Move from professionals priority to patient’s priority
- Time to integrate care planning
- Openness to change
Way forward

- Advocacy to Health Care Professionals on importance of palliative care and IDT approach
- Planning meeting for next three months of pilot
- Commitment to time for IDT care planning
- Commitment to approach of IDT care planning
- Case study reviews
Thank you

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