

Nursing Division

Introduction

The remarkable progress in cancer therapeutics particularly in the latest decade requires high specialty in nursing skills and practices. Although we, all nursing staffs in the NCCHE, have to work hard in the daily practice due to persisting increase of the number of patients treated in the ward and outpatient clinics, we have provided various nursing programs in which we concerned ourselves with improving the quality of life (QOL) of the patients who are fighting against their disease or those taking palliative care. At the start of this fiscal year, we aimed to achieve the following four objectives of nursing.

1. To evolve the quality of nursing through;
 - Practicing the secure nursing based on the evidence
 - Providing the mental and social supports to the patients based on the reliable relationship
2. To fill up the nursing services through;
 - Making patients' living environment more comfortable
 - Conducting appropriate clinical paths
3. To promote much more learning from the actual daily works
4. To fill up our activities as an educational institution of nursing
5. To have administrative point of view in our nursing practices

Routine Activities

In this April, we had increase of 8 staff nurses, and a total of 257 nurses including 38 new comers and 29 nurse•fs aides have cared for 557.6 outpatients per day and 385.6 inpatients per day during the year of 2003. The hospital stay of inpatient was reduced from 19.9 to 19.0 days in average. As a result, nursing care at ward has become much more pressing and intensive than before. The reduction of

hospital stay has also increased the number of outpatients who need intravenous chemotherapy at the ambulatory treatment center, from 7, 630 to 9,201 cases in this year, although the oral chemotherapy is widely used recently.

The number of patients who underwent surgical operation under general anesthesia has still increased from 2,208 in 2002 to 2289 in 2003. Also, the number of patients who underwent chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy was increasing. In other words, all of the hospital functions are full applied, and recent nursing workload cannot be compared with that in the previous years. It is, therefore, necessary to take measures for avoiding burnout syndrome in nursing staffs.

In our division the educational team prepares compulsory subjects in postgraduate training courses for the first-, second- and third year nurses, respectively. In addition, for those having four years or more experiences it also prepares the optional programs of units I (special lecture) and II (original research) for the specialist. According to the overseas training program by governmental fund, we sent one nurse to North London Hospice in U.K as a four-week trainee in this year.

As to the research activities, 14 papers were reported at the general meeting of The Cancer Nursing Society or some other meetings, and 13 articles were published in the nursing journals during the year of 2003.

We regularly accepted trainees outside our hospital based on the following programs.

1. At the palliative care unit: We prepare a specified course for the degree of Certified Expert Nurse (CEN) of palliative care given by Japan Nursing Association (JNA), or conventional one for nurses and visitors coming from various places in Japan.
2. At the general wards: We also prepare a specified course for the CEN of cancer chemotherapy or that

of infectious disease, i.e., Infection Control Nurse (ICN) given by JNA.

3. We accept the students of Chiba Prefectural Noda Nursing School for bedside training.

New development

1. Acceptance of CEN trainees majoring cancer pain control from the Postgraduate Educational Division of National Nursing College (January to February).

2. Inauguration of link-nurse committee for risk management (April)

3. Inauguration of link-nurse committee for decubitus

control with adoption of two WOC (Wound, Ostomy, Continence) nurses (April)

4. Increase of ICNs qualified, which activates ICT (July)

5. Acceptance of a student from the Postgraduate Nursing School of Tokyo Women's Medical University, investigating the patients' QOL just after gastrectomy (July to August).

6. Start of training for intravenous injection by nurses, due to the revision of official guideline (December)

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Number of training participants for nursing programs

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Training nurse 1)		4	6	4	4	2	3	3
Teaching nurse 1)			1	3	8	8	5	9
Supervisor 1)	1	1		1	1	1	2	2
Nursing management training 2)		1					1	1
Overseas nursing training 3)	2		1	1	2		2	1
Total	4	6	8	9	15	11	13	16

Note: Organized by 1) Ministry of Health and welfare and 2) Chiba prefecture, 3) Nursing training at Mayo Clinic, USA

Number of nurses visiting the NCCHE

	-1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Palliative care unit	55 (3)	21 (2)	18 (2)	14	13	11	18	18	168
General facilities	32			1	7	14	6	7	67
Total	87	21	18	15	20	25	24	25	235

(): Those from foreign countries