Hilla University College

Nursing Department

Family and Community Health Nursing

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Lecture – 14 –

Home Health Care Services

Definition of Terms

Home Health Care Services – They are the health services provided to individuals and families in their places of residence for the purpose of promoting ,maintaining or restoring health, or of maximizing the level of independence, while minimizing illness. Services appropriate to the need of the client and family are planned, coordinated, and made available by providers organized for the delivery of home care through the use of employed staff.

Home Health Care Nursing- It is a nursing specialty in which nurses provide multidimensional home care to clients of all ages. Home health care is a cost efficient way to deliver quality care in the convenience of the client's home. Home health nurses create care plans to achieve goals based on the client's diagnosis. E .g: A nurse is admitting a client to home care services, using Medicare as the funding source for the care that will be provided 24 hours a day on an ongoing basis.

Why do clients typically prefer home care over hospital care (Clients are comforted by the feeling of control and the familiarity of their own home.). The primary reason home care agencies expanded so drastically in the late 1960s and 1970s (Is to increased numbers of elderly and poor persons were eligible for care).

What is the rationale behind public health departments not offering home nursing (Priorities have changed to focus on addressing the increasing public health problems).

Team Members of Home Health Care Services

The following people are the medical and nursing professionals with whom the client will interact with on a daily basis. Compassion, dignity and respect for client needs are their guiding principles for the relationship these individuals develop with clients and their families.

-Attending Physician- The attending physician has responsibility for all decisions made that affect your care .

-Residents , Interns and House Staff -

- Specialists (physicians)

- Nurse Manager

-Registered Nurses -

- Licensed Practical Nurses

-Nurse Practitioners and Physician's Assistants .

-Patient Advocate

-Patient Care Technicians .

- Social Worker

- Dietitian

- Therapists

-Interpreters - An interpreter is available to provide interpretation between , clients , providers , and family members . Interpreter services helps to facilitate language access for deaf and hard of hearing individuals and people whose primary language is not their mother language.

The Home Care Clients Needing Home Health Care Services

The largest population needing home care is the elderly because dependency increases with age, dramatically so after 75. Besides the elderly and long term care populations, another group needing home care is discharged acute care patients .Others include babies and children with disabilities or individuals sent with monitors medication, IVs and various therapies. Some, such as children, women , and drug users have additional special needs.

Another sub population receiving home health services is “wellness home care market”. These clients do not require medical care but have concerns about their health and well-being and are receptive to health promotion and illness prevention strategies. They use services such as diagnostic testing and screening(for e.g. blood pressure monitoring); and illness prevention (for e.g. information about exercise and stress management). Chronic epileptic patient, handicapped mentally and physically, terminally ill patients etc.

The principle of effective home health nursing care -:

1 . -Deliberately build trust.

2 . -Develop a connection at the first visit.

3- .Help people solve their own problems.

4- .Determine how to keep the unstable client safe until the next visit.

5 . Time management.

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Roles and Functions of Community Health Nurse In the Home Health Care Services-

-Planner / Programmer

A. Identifies needs, priorities, and problems of individuals, families, and communities.

B. Formulates municipal health plan in the absence of a medical doctor.

C. Interprets and implements nursing plan, program policies and circular for the concerned staff personnel.

D. Provides technical assistance to rural health midwives in health matters.

Provider of Nursing Care

A. Provides direct nursing care to sick or disabled in the home, clinic, or workplace.

B. Develops the family's capability to take care of the sick, disabled, or dependent member.

-Community Organizer

A. Motivates and enhances community participation in terms of planning ,organizing, implementing, and evaluating health services.

B. Initiates and participates in community development activities.

Coordinator of Services

A. Coordinates with individuals, families, and groups for health related services provided by various members of the health team.

B. Coordinates nursing program with other health programs like environmental sanitation, health education, dental health, and mental health.

-Trainer / Health Educator

A. Conducts pre and post-consultation conferences for clinic clients.

B. Acts as a resource speaker on health and health related services.

C. Initiates the use of tri-media (radio/TV, cinema plugr, and print ads) for health education purposes.

D. Conducts pre-marital counseling.

-Health Monitor

Detects deviation from health of individuals, families, groups, and communities through contacts/visits with them.

-Role Model

Provides good example of healthful living to the members of the community and for the people in need.

Change Agent

Motivates changes in health behavior in individuals, families, groups, and communities that also include lifestyle in order to promote and maintain health.

-Recorder/Reporter/Statistician

A. Prepares and submits required reports and records.

B. Maintain adequate, accurate, and complete recording and reporting.

C. Reviews, validates, consolidates, analyzes, and interprets all records and reports.

D. Prepares statistical data/chart and other data presentation.

Researcher -

A. Participates in the conduct of survey studies and researches on nursing and health-related subjects.

B. Coordinates with government and non-government organization in the implementation of studies/research.

Home Health Care Services are offered by -:

1 .Registered nurses: for e.g: (a client who has had a stroke requires skilled nursing assessment.)

2. Physical therapist: (visits for gait training).

3 .Speech therapist: (speech therapy for improvement of a speech deficit) .

4 . Occupation therapist: for the training in activities of daily living such as bathing and cooking.

5.Social worker.

Home Health Care Services are offered to -:

1 . Acutely ill clients.

2 .People with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

3 . Elderly in greater numbers.

4 . Terminally ill clients (hospice).

5. High risk pregnant women.

6 . Ill infants and children.

E.g: A home care client suffering from cancer asked the home care nurse if he could be referred to hospice, considering his diagnosis. How should the nurse respond? (For your physician to refer you to hospice, you need to decide to concentrate on enjoying life and staying comfortable rather than treating your cancer).

“ Thank you for listen “