Barriers for Elderly Patient on Hemodialysis Wishing to Receive End of life care at Home -from a Nurse's Perspective- : A Case Study

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Many patients in Japan wish to spend the last days of life at home, and this includes dialysis patients. However, they face many problems in seamlessly linking inpatient and home care.

This study aims to identify barriers for elderly dialysis patients to be discharged from hospital to home and receive end-of-life care through a case study. As a research method, unstructured interviews were conducted with the patient's family member, and the content was analyzed.

The results revealed six barriers: 1. lack of management of discharge coordinator nurses at acute care hospital; 2. lack of flexibility in medical and long-term care insurance coverage; 3. discrepancy between clinic hours and contact availability of key family member; 4. lack of human resources to support key family member; 5. time and cost for home environment improvement 6. complexity of social security system procedures.

Elderly dialysis patients are prone to changes in condition, and it is difficult to predict whether they will truly recover to the point where they can return home after acute treatment. In fact, they need to be ready to accept home in a short period of time. Therefore, barriers to end-of-life care need to be cleared so that rapid and intensive support can be provided without missing the timing.

Biography

Yui TAMURA has completed her MHN from Showa University Graduate school of nursing and rehabilitation sciences. She works as a lecturer, teaching nephrology nursing and adult nursing at Showa university. She has published papers in Japan. And she serves as an education committee member at Japan Academy of Nephrology Nursing.

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