

MODELS OF TRAINING – INTEGRATING PALLIATIVE CARE INTO THE CURRICULUM FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Regional Training programmes through Hospice Africa Uganda

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Palliative Care: an essential part of medical and nursing training



Teaching PC in Uganda

- Teaching started in Jan 1994. There was a clear vision and a curriculum which had originally been developed in Singapore and in Kenya (undergraduate)
- Post graduate (MMed) in 1995
- MUST 1998
- 1998 Palliative medicine became examinable at Makerere
- The 1st PC in-service training was held for Health professionals in Mulago teaching hospital.



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Integrating PC into health training institutions

- After the initial training, advocacy work started to ensure that more people learnt about PC
- HAU met with relevant people in MoH
- Government included PC into the National Health Sector Strategic Plan 2000-05 then 2006-2011
- PC was included into the Health teaching institutions curriculum
- HAU participated in curriculum and material development for training institutions



Courses offered at HAU

- Hospice model of training ranges from short courses of one week to long courses of up to eighteen months
- Courses focus on health professionals working in government, private institutions, such as clinical tutors, HIV/AIDS educators and lecturers, medical and nursing students
- Distance learning diploma commenced in 2003 offers an opportunity for students in SSA
- Hands on training for small and new initiatives across Africa



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Using low-cost locally available materials



Training programme for medical and nursing students

- 10 lectures for 4th year MUK students by HAU
- 18 lectures for all MUST students by HAU
- Accompanied by placements at HAU
- Undertake exams in palliative care
- BSN for MUK and MUST
- Clinical tutors from nursing training schools
- Palliative care areas covered in their training include: pain/ symptom management; holistic care; communication/interpersonal skills and a clinical component for practical application

Supporting medical students on placement



Successes

- To date 2259 doctors, 93 nurses trained (MUK)
- MUST 400 doctors/nurses
- 35 Health tutors/ Clinical Instructors and HIV/AIDS Health Educators trained and are teaching PC
- Distance Learning diploma 73 trained and have taken a lead in initiating PC services in their countries
- Clinical palliative care course 78 trained and are leading district PC initiatives
- Integrating PC into the health training institution's curriculum
- Hands on clinical training is improving new initiatives in Nigeria, Cameroon and Malawi



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Challenges

- Attitude – lack of enthusiasm by senior doctors about PC & high turn over of trained HPs
- Limited number of people with expertise to teach PC, including tutors of medical & nursing students
- Overwhelming numbers of students needing placements for PC at HAU
- Policies in other African countries not allowing nurses and clinical officers to prescribe morphine
- Resources – funding



Lessons learnt & Recommendations

- Making the curriculum and other teaching materials context specific
- Collaboration with stakeholders is important
- PC clinical experience is essential for students and practitioners
- Follow ups are essential to enhance performance
- Integration of PC across the curriculum
- Linking those trained to national and regional PC networks is essential for continued support



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