
Models of Integrating Palliative Care into the Core Curriculum

Work Being Undertaken in Palliative Care Training in Botswana

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Palliative Care: an essential part of medical and nursing training



Institute of Health Sciences, Gaborone, (IHSG)

- IHSG is one of the 8 Government owned health training institutions.
- IHSG was established in 1993, gaining autonomy from the then National Health institute that was established in 1970.
- It offers 3 year basic diploma and 18 months post basic diploma programs.
- It is affiliated to the University of Botswana that is responsible for validating all the academic programs



Programs offered at IHSG

Diploma programs:

- General Nursing, Pharmacy Technology, Medical Laboratory Technology, Health Education, and Dental therapy.

Post Basic Programs:

- Family Nurse Practice, Nurse Anaesthesia, and Midwifery



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Activities Undertaken in Relation to Palliative Care

- This is through a partnership b/n APCA and IHSG with funding from the Twinning Centre/AIHA
- Strengthening the capacity of IHSG faculty to provide palliative care training for students
- Introduction of palliative care concepts into three existing programs at IHSG (Pharmacy Technology, General Nursing and Family Nurse Practice)
- Development of the organizational capacity of IHSG in policy development, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and research



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Successes

- Individuals trained in concepts of Hospice and Holistic P C for applicability in the teaching of students 70
- Training incorporated clinical aspects and teaching methodologies in PC
- Individuals trained in policy and procedure development 40
- Policies developed 5



Successes Cont:

- Individuals trained in Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting procedures 35
- A collaborative relationship was established with 4 hospice sites, assessed to be suitable for P C clinical placements of students
- Plans are underway to establish a palliative care resource centre at IHSG
- APCA/IHSG PC partnership is being extended to similar teaching institutions



Challenges:

- Government regulations and procedures; IHSG is under the MOH
- Funding mechanisms for IHSG PC activities
- School curricula is only revised every 5 years; need to focus on integrating new materials into the course plans
- The current APCA IHS partnership impact on other similar institutions using same curriculum
- Coordination of PC activities



Lessons

- Need for empowering/strengthening tutors/lecturers with basic knowledge and skills of implementing P C services so that knowledge and skills are transferred to students for improved service provision.



Recommendations for the Future

- **Other IHSs to embrace PC concepts and incorporate them into Course plans**
- **Strengthening of PC centres/ Hospices with PC trained human resources to be able to offer practical attachment for IHS students**
- **Establishment of a PC learning resource centre at IHSG**
- **Improvement on the availability of pain management drugs in the country and liberation of prescription of morphine**
- **More collaboration between the Palliative care Unit in the Ministry of Health and IHSG and PC /Hospice centres.**

