Education: New support concepts in cancer patients' health care

KEYWORDS: Patient Education; Neoplasms; Nurses Role

Education increases knowledge and understanding of disease and its treatment; it also influences attitudes to chemotherapy treatment and, within health care, it helps us influence changes of negative health habits, changes in behavior in order to prevent potential health problems and successfully solve actual ones. Accordingly, education should be realized as a powerful device in fight for life against the malignant disease. We would like to point out the importance of education of the cancer patients within health care, and to determine role of nurse in its realization through individual standardized interventions, systematized in health care standards. The aims of this paper were to realize incidence of nursing diagnosis “lack of knowledge” in relation to other nursing diagnoses concerning cancer patients, and to perceive needs for education, i.e. specific knowledge, which is missing to patients receiving chemotherapy. Our investigation included 100 patients diagnosed with cancer with different localization of the primary disease receiving chemotherapy during April 2001 at the Service of Medical Oncology of the Institute of Oncology and Radiology of Serbia. We used health care documentation and questionnaire specially designed for this investigation with title “Needs for Education”. Results of the investigation are assessed, and showed in tables and graphs. Results of our investigation give contribution in confirmation of education importance and the need for systematic, continual and research approach to education of cancer patients, what at the same time, influence defining role and responsibilities of nurse in this field of health care.

Project: Health care professionals and tobacco control

KEYWORDS: Smoking; Health Personnel; Health Education

Problem: Smoking prevalence in general population in our country is very high - 41%. Health care professionals have specific role in smoking prevention and its giving up, either through patients’ advising and education, or through a sample (“role model”). However, many researches indicates that smoking prevalence is very high in the health care professionals and that consciousness on the smoking harmfulness is not in the satisfying level. Project aims: To perceive situation on the smoking habits and attitudes among the health care professionals; education of the health care professionals on importance of tobacco control and possibilities of preventive actions; smoking prohibition at the health institutions and decrease of the smoking prevalence among the health care professionals; inclusion of the health care professionals in the smoking control activities, individually (in work with patients) and through organizing actions; pressure on the Government of Serbia and the Ministry of Work to create national policy and to change existing laws related to tobacco control. Activities - phases: 1. Questionnaire among the health care professionals for complete perceiving of the situation among the health care professionals: smoking habits, attitudes on the smoking habits, interest in taking part the activities. 2. Education of the health care professionals: seminars, round tables, printed material, mass media. 3. Actions for decrease of the smoking prevalence among the health care professionals by making the smoke-free institutions. 4. Actions directed to public, government, etc. Preparation of the phase 1 is in progress. A questionnaire has been made and the institutions for the pilot testing have been chosen. Organizers: The program is initiated and conducted by: Serbian Society of Serbia for Fight against Cancer, Institute of Serbia for Health Protection - “Batur”, IORS, Union of the Health Care Professionals of Belgrade and Association of Nurses and Technicians. Serbian Society for Fight against Cancer coordinates all activities.