

Investigate the task-centered model for the patients who are living alone, disabled, non-elderly, and having difficult hospital discharge: a case study

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Background

Patients who are difficult to be discharged from the hospital will cause unnecessary health care, and become a common service for medical social workers in recent years. To avoid wasting healthcare resources, discharge planning, provided by the hospital professionals work with patients' families, is very important.

Methods

This case study aimed to utilize the task-centered model which is a problem-solving and short-term approach to social work practice. Aiming at discharge, medical social workers communicate and coordinate with patient and family members of relationship conflict, and discuss specific executable tasks with patient based on the patient's diseases and executive ability. By applying the task-centered model, medical social workers can help the patients and families to solve their problems, respect their rights, and coordinate with interdepartmental personnel to ensure successful implementation of discharge planning.

Results

The results reveal that those patients who are living alone, disabled, non-elderly, difficult hospital discharge and families of relationship conflict can focus on actionable solutions to specific problems to deal with the discharge problems when medical social workers apply the task-centered model. To connect social resources properly, medical social workers need to gain the trust of the medical team. There will be more challenges for medical social workers about that serve those patients and families, work with interdepartmental personnel in order to ensure successful implementation of discharge planning.

Conclusions

By task-centered model, medical social workers can obtain medical team's recognition and trust through the interaction with team members and the effectiveness of difficult cases handling. Medical social workers also can deal with difficult discharge cases more smoothly in the future. To discharge difficult patient, medical social workers could utilize the task-centered practice to communicate with the involuntary family members and seek various interdepartmental cooperation.

Keywords

medical social worker, the task-centered model, discharge planning, difficult hospital discharge