

Training Needs Analysis for Caring of Patient with Psychiatric Co-morbidities in Inpatient Non-psychiatric Settings

Jiang Lina



Introduction

The health care needs for patient with both psychiatric and medical comorbidities are complex. It is imperative that nurses are to be adequately prepared to meet the challenges to improve quality of care during patients' admission to the non-psychiatric settings. However, nurses report a lack of knowledge relevant to mental illness, and they are not adequately prepared to care for this group of patients effectively (Giandinoto, & Edward, 2014).

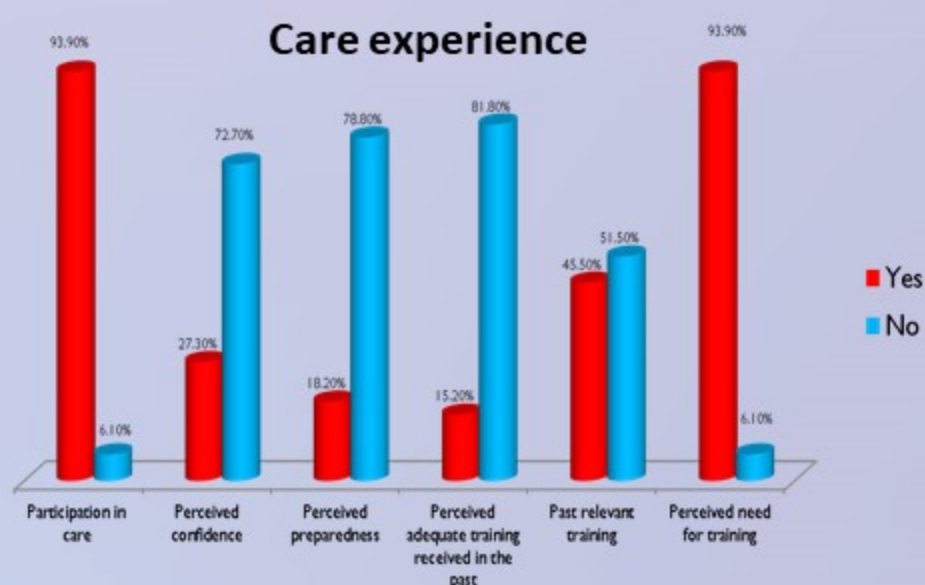
Aim

The aim of the study is to explore the staff's perception and care experience, and the training needs in managing this group of patients.

Methodology

This study is a mixed qualitative and quantitative non-experimental design with purposive non-random sampling. A focus group (N= 8) was first conducted, followed by self-reported survey (N = 33) using the Learning Needs Analysis questionnaire (Cronbach Alpha = 0.87). Descriptive statistics and thematic content analysis were used for quantitative and qualitative data respectively.

Results

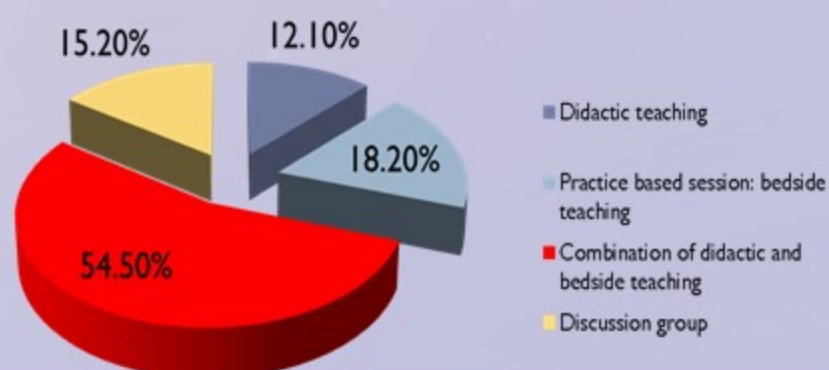


The baseline mean score before training for level of confidence, perceived knowledge, skills, and preparedness are 2.61 (SD = .66); 2.61 (SD = .61), 2.55 (SD = .56), 2.55 (SD = .67).

Essential topics identified

Rank	Topic	Percentage
1	The communication and interpersonal skills	97%
2	Approach to aggressive/violent patient: de-escalation techniques	90.9%
3	Approach to aggressive/violent patients: techniques to protect patient and staffs from injury	87.9%
4	Understand of acute psychosis/Schizophrenia	84.8%
5	Approach to patient with emotional issues: Dealing of patient's anxiety, and emotion (e.g., responding to patient should they express feeling of being depressed with/without suicidal thoughts)	81.8%
5	Approach to aggressive/violent patients: Recognition of early warning signs of aggression	81.8%
6	Management of alcohol/substance withdrawal	78.8%

Preferred mode of training



Four themes were identified on nurses' care experience: different approach required in communication and interaction; disruptive behaviours of being aggressive, manipulative and uncooperative; level of care required (more attention is required, time consuming in terms of care). Nurses perceive taking care of patients with psychiatric comorbidities is more challenging in terms of the behavior and attitudes to staffs.

Conclusion

The findings of the study suggested there is an urgent need for training of the staffs on care of patient with psychiatric comorbidities. It provides the direction of best approaches to equip the nurses to be more confident and competent in caring the patients. Exploration of patients' perspectives on their inpatient experience is recommended to provide insight in designing an effective care process.

Reference

Giandinoto, J. A. & Edward, K. L. (2014). Challenges in acute care of people with co-morbid mental illness. *British journal of nursing*, 23, 728-32. DOI: [10.12968/bjon.2014.23.13.728](https://doi.org/10.12968/bjon.2014.23.13.728)