

PERCEIVED BARRIERS OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A TRANSITION CLINIC IN A TERTIARY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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Background:

Transition clinic is viewed as the best practice in caring for adolescents with chronic illness. Its implementation is important for the creation of a seamless transition to adult care facility.

Objectives:

To determine the barriers perceived by HCWs. To identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats regarding this program.

Methods:

This is a 3-phased mixed methods study. Phase I was focus group discussion. Phase II was questionnaire development. Phase III was online survey. Themes were extracted from the FGD results. Descriptive statistics such as mean, median, standard deviation, frequency, percentage, and Kruskal wallis were utilized. Level of significance is at 95%.

Results:

Barriers identified were: knowledge of the HCW and structure of healthcare transition, attitude of HCWs, and parent and patient attitude. 230 participants from medical, nursing, and social service were included. Knowledge about TC is high with a mean of 3.80. Nurses have high knowledge on the structure of HCT. Respondents have lower attitude in their interest and investing time for TC. The experience on patients and parent attitude can be classified as moderate with a mean of 3.24.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The knowledge of the HCWs regarding transitioning and TC is considered as the strength in the implementation of a TC. The structure of HCT is seen as a weakness as well as a threat. It was identified that involvement of nurses is an opportunity since they have a positive attitude towards TC. Parent and patient factors impose the greatest threat. Adult providers and institutions must be identified.

Keywords: Transition clinic, barriers, chronic illness, HCWs