

The Creation and Implementation of a Nursing Fellowship in Bleeding Disorders

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BACKGROUND

Hemophilia Treatment Centres (HTC) and home infusion of clotting factor concentrates are the standard of care in Canada and have thus decreased the number of hospital admissions. While this can impact a patient positively, when the need does arise to come to the hospital, patients encounter nurses and other health care professional that have little understanding of their disorder.

Recognizing the important role nurses play in caring for patients with hemophilia, the St. Michael's HTC received financial support to develop a nursing based education initiative to improve the knowledge of nurses practicing in areas in the hospital likely to care for patients with bleeding disorders. The fellowship was named the Bott-Harrington Nursing Fellowship in Bleeding Disorders, in honour of the first hemophilia nurse coordinator at St. Michael's hospital and those affected by HIV.

OBJECTIVES



To create and implement a fellowship in order to provide nurses from key areas within the hospital an opportunity to participate in an education and mentorship program. The fellowship would be designed to expose nurses to a variety of aspects crucial to understanding the lived experience of patients with a bleeding disorder.

DEVELOPMENT

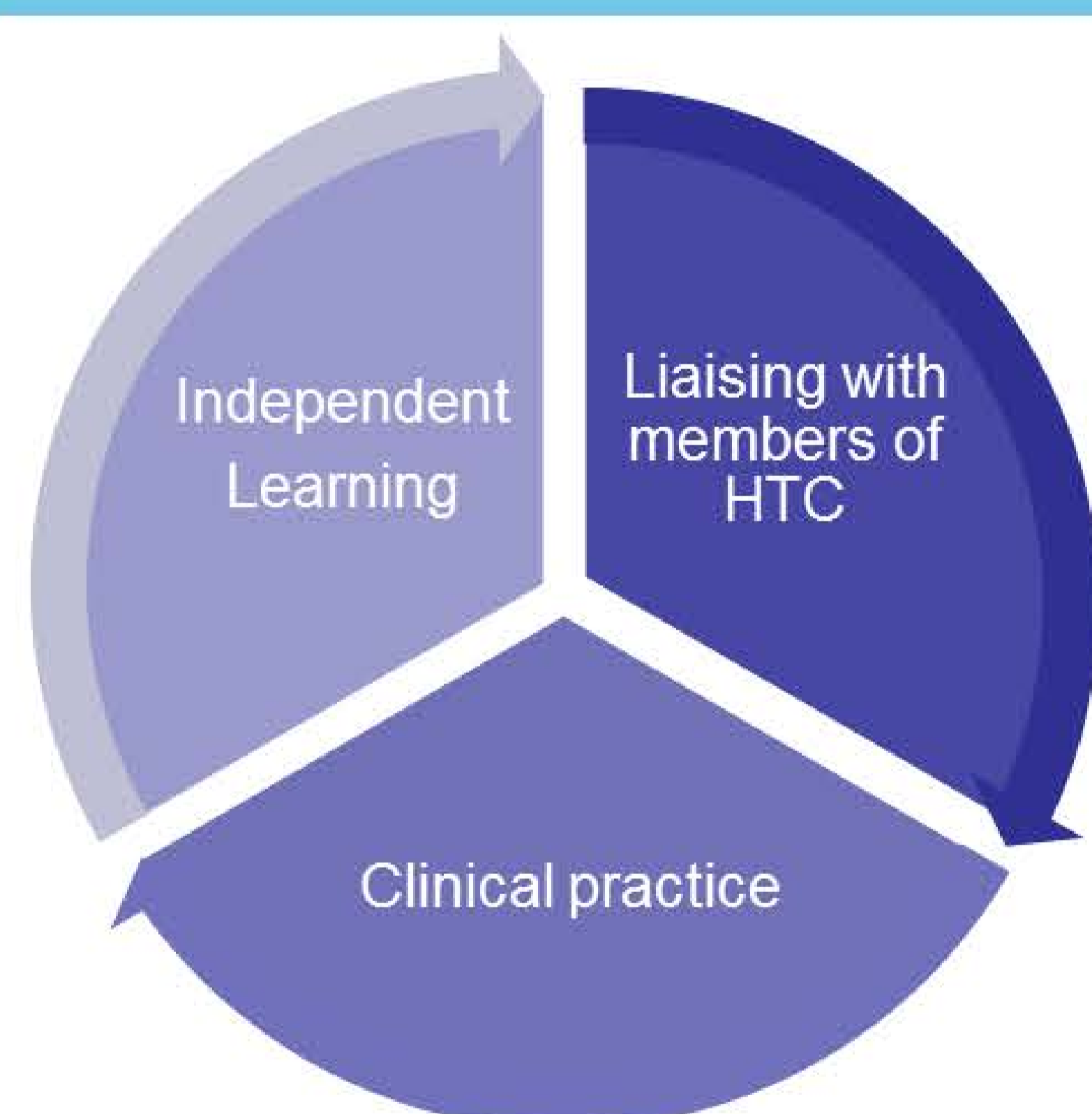


A module based curriculum was developed with the input of external nursing curriculum experts. Each module guides the fellow through goals and objectives related to a specific area of learning. Experiential learning as well as exposure to education content was included in the modules listed in table 1.

Table 1

Module 1	Comprehensive care in Canada
Module 2	Coagulation and genetics of bleeding disorders
Module 3	Clinical manifestations and bleed assessment
Module 4	Management of bleeding
Module 5	Coagulation therapy
Module 6	Musculoskeletal complications of hemophilia and other bleeding disorders
Module 7	Psychosocial aspects of care
Module 8	Inhibitors: what they are and how they affect care
Module 9	Preparing for procedures
Module 10	The impact of HIV and Hepatitis C on patients with bleeding disorders

IMPLEMENTATION



Each nursing fellow spent a total of 28 shifts over a 6 month period gaining knowledge and comfort in bleeding disorders while maintaining their current position on their home unit.

RESULTS

Thus far, an emergency room nurse and one from the orthopedic unit, were accepted to participate in the mentorship program. Each fellow was responsible for bringing knowledge and expertise back to their home unit. Each fellow worked to implement a dissemination strategy that was most effective for their peers. Initial feedback from staff in these key areas indicates a much higher level of comfort with the treatment of patients with a bleeding disorders.

CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS

An intense learning program targeting nurses in key areas can assist in educating and maintaining expertise in bleeding disorders. The fellowship aims to enroll 3 more nurses over the next 3 years in order to improve nursing knowledge and comfort when caring for patients with a bleeding disorder.

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