

The Bott-Harrington Nursing Fellowship in Bleeding Disorders: Broad dissemination of nursing education tool kit

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OBJECTIVE

Hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders are rare, thus specialized knowledge about the management of patients with bleeding disorders is required to optimize care. In Canada, the national standard is that patients receive care within a comprehensive Hemophilia Treatment Centre. Nurses who care for these patients need to develop expertise in these rare inherited disorders, though there is no formal nurse training available.

With the financial support of a generous donor, Georgina Floros, Hemophilia Nurse Coordinator (HNC) St. Michael's Hospital (SMH), Toronto, Canada, created a Nursing Education Fellowship Program comprised of 10 self-directed learning modules designed to accompany a clinical preceptorship to educate nurses within SMH who encounter patients with bleeding disorders within their clinical area (emergency room, inpatient orthopedics, etc). This fellowship has been implemented to bridge the knowledge gap often experienced by nurses unfamiliar with this patient group in an effort increase their comfort in care delivery and to enhance patient safety.

The success of this fellowship as a teaching tool prompted a request from CANHC (Canadian Association of Nurses in Hemophilia Care) to adopt and adapt this tool to educate nurses new to hemophilia care and for HNC succession planning.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Using the existing Bott-Harrington Nursing Fellowship Program, members of CANHC- Ontario Region revised and updated all 10 modules to reflect changes in bleeding disorders care that had occurred since the initial creation and to remove any institution specific references contained in the modules.

RESULTS

An online e-learning tool was developed that can be accessed at www.stmichaelshospital.com without password protection by nurses new to hemophilia care, for HNC succession planning, to develop a nursing fellowship in their own institution or any health care providers who comes in contact with patients who have an inherited bleeding disorder.

CONCLUSIONS

Caring for patients with hemophilia and inherited bleeding disorders is a unique area of nursing that requires specialized knowledge. Having an organized, online tool could provide the framework/foundation for educating nurses new to the care of this patient population.

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