



Developing a Nurse Practitioner role in an Elder Care setting

Truth or Dare ?


by Sylvia Meijer,

RN/MPhil, PGDip (Nursing), PGDip,(Older Adult), Dipl. Mngt

New Zealand Association of Gerontology & Age Concern
New Zealand conference October 2009



This presentation

- A Truth and Dare
 - Challenges for consumers and health providers
 - Assessments & Care needs
 - Place of delivery of care
 - Workforce issues & different care models
 - Nurse practitioner role
 - Consumer perspective
 - Practical implementation
- 

Developing new roles: a Leap of Faith



Challenges for health consumers

- Complex health concerns
- Fragmented services
- Seemingly un-coordinated health services
- Access and transport



- Ministry of Health, NZ (2004) Impact of population ageing in NZ on the demand for health and disability support services and workforce.

Challenges for health providers

- Population with increasingly complex health concerns
- Fragmented services
- Service specifications and Funding pathways
- Workforce issues



Assessment and Care needs

- Doubtful about being ‘assessed’
- Variations in assessment criteria
- Care needs not easy to determine
- Initial assessment often when crisis occurs
- Assessing the person and aligning needs with available service
- People are entitled to make their own decisions (and mistakes)



Places of delivery of care

Ideally, where the person wants care and where care can be delivered appropriately and in a safe manner, for instance:

- At home or with family
- Social gathering places
- Supported living
- Care facilities
- Episodes of care in hospital



Workforce issues

- Resources are limited
- Workforce is getting older
- Different skill mix requirements



A multitude of Care models, some examples include:

- Home care
- Community clinics
- Specialist services
- Transitional care
- Comprehensive care collaboration
- Chronic care management
- Self management models
- Mobile care centres
- Case management
- Supported living
- Nurse-led care
- Nurse practitioner
- Long-term care and more.....

Common denominator to good care delivery



- Patient centered
- Teamwork
- An understanding of terms and skills of the interdisciplinary team members
- Communication

Practical example

- An older person becomes confused due to an infection, exacerbation of cardio-vascular and respiratory health issues occur, if also a diabetic, the blood glucose levels fluctuate. Suddenly the person has balancing problems and falls, adding injury and pain. The infection is treated with an antibiotic but this often presents an opportunity for fungal infections to occur.
- Treatment may be delayed because the GP is not available or the infection is not detected early. Recovery is delayed and recovery to the full potential of abilities may not occur. Hospital admission may be required.
- The person may become depressed. Mobility is decreased and the resident becomes constipated, loses appetite and generally feels more unwell.

Why Nurse Practitioner ?



- Early intervention
- Provide case management
- Link services
- To support workforce
- More than one pathway
- Proven positive outcome

Consumer perspective


- Holistic care delivery
- Positive and accepted
- Convenient and accessible



Brown, 2007, Horrocks, Anderson & Salisbury, 2002 Schuler, Heubscher and Hallock, 2001)



NP implementation

- Organizational paradigm
 - Community paradigm
 - Workforce paradigm
 - NP pathway
- 

Considerations when implementing the NP role

- Supportive framework
- Management and nursing support
- Organizational change to enable acceptance
- Allowing professional identity to change
- Preparatory information to clients and health professionals




Current project

- 2 NGOs and input from DHB
- Increases efficiency
- Worthwhile doing but requires tenacity and perseverance
- Pioneer work but hopefully supports future willingness to change





To conclude

- Older peoples' health more complex and lesser resources to help manage this
 - Exploring efficient models of care
 - Nurse Practitioner is one way of different care delivery
 - A leap of faith and a dare
- 

A common goal assists change

