

UR Medical students' supportive supervision Report- Palliative Care Rotation at Butaro

Supervisor: Dr. Claudine ABIBESHYA

Objectives:

1. Clinical Exposure and Observation:

- To follow medical students during their clinical visits with palliative care patients, observing their participation in the health care provider - patient interactions, as well as their empathy and clinical decision-making.

2. Reflective Sessions and Emotional Support:

- Conduct reflective sessions in the afternoons to assist students in processing their experiences, managing emotions attached to palliative care, and fostering self-awareness and coping strategies.

3. Supportive supervision:

- Supporting students by delivering presentations related to palliative care topics not limited to refining their communication, interdisciplinary approach, medical ethics in the context of palliative care, Difference between palliative care and end of life care and psychosocial support

Detailed Schedule

Day 1: January 15th

• Morning:

- Introduction to the supervision visit and objectives
- Introduction to the Hospital departments

• Afternoon:

- Reflection session with students on their morning experiences
- Individual or small group mentoring sessions addressing personal student concerns
- Discussion on **effective Communication and Psychosocial support in palliative care**
- Practice exercises for communication improvement

Day 2: January 16th

• Morning:

- Joining students during their clinical visits, observing interactions and patient care
- Small group discussions on specific patient cases encountered

• Afternoon:

- **Physical, psychosocial and spiritual pain (total pain) management**

Day 3: January 17th

• Morning:

- Join students in support groups with palliative care patients.

- Time for students to reflect on their performance during this 2weeks rotation, what did they perform well, what did they do wrong and how should they improve for the next rotations and their future as well.
- **Afternoon:**
 - Discussion on **Difference between palliative care and end**

of life care, Advance care plan, interdisciplinary approach

- **Day 4: January 18th**
- **Morning:**
 - Evaluation of the supervision and feedback session highlighting progress and areas for further improvement for future supervision plan
- **Afternoon:**
 - Development of a shared action plan for continued growth in palliative care education with students
 - Discussion on **Medical ethics in the context of palliative care**

Day 5: January 19th

- **Morning:**
 - Students Assessment
- **Afternoon:**
 - Departure

This one-week supportive supervision started on January15,2024 where we have a group of 22 students and we had a discussion with the students on the first day and they mentioned some of the factors which enable them to learn perfectly and those include being provided with accommodation, food, transport, excellent hospitality and learning facilities. However, they raised some of the challenges that they are facing and proposed the recommendation as the way of solving those hindering factors.

Challenges and Recommendations

Challenge1 Short period of time for their clinical exposure due to the fact that the group of students is so big.

This make it difficult for their rotation especially being accommodated in Oncology where they can be able to meet their objectives, they are sent in other department instead where it is hard for them to find patients who are on palliative care.

Recommendation1

Rotating in parallel as it used to be in the past, since this can reduce the number of students to come to Butaro and enhance their exposure and be able to meet their objectives. For instance, a group of 22 students can be divided into two subgroups where 11 students are to be at Rwinkwavu and 11 are to rotate at Butaro and after 2 weeks they are to exchange, the ones at Rwinkwavu go to Butaro and the ones at Butaro they are to go to Rwinkwavu.

Challenge2

Few amounts of transport allowance (10,000Rwf), students said that most of them are coming to Butaro from Huye meaning that they departure from Huye to Kigali and then from Kigali to Butaro and they find 10000Rwf not enough for this long journey since they are using motorcycles and the buses as well.

Recommendation2

The students requested to increase the transport fees, if possible, to help them for their transport from Huye to Butaro.

Challenge 3

Lack of internet accessibility in student's accommodation which affect their learning process adversely because they need to keep reading after their clinical rotation to enrich their skills and knowledge but due to internet (Wi-Fi) issues they are unable to make it.

Recommendation3

Helping them to have access to the internet where they stay as they way of improving their learning process during palliative care rotation at Butaro.

Challenge4

Difficult to communicate with palliative care patient, counselling them and being able to assess Spiritual pain since it is their first time to be with palliative care patients and being able to control their emotions was an issue, they also found it difficult to assess the spiritual pain of the patients However, from the support groups they learnt a lot.

Recommendation4

Being mentally prepared before joining palliative care rotation

Challenge 5

Some of the specialists especially in oncology pediatrics are not helping students to learn so that they can meet their objectives

Recommendations

Encouraging the specialists to engage UR students in the learning process as they do for UGHE students.

Evaluation and assessment of student's performance

1. Excellent collaboration with psychologists during support groups with patients on palliative care for the purpose of psychological support
2. Participation in their learning process and patients' management
3. Sharing skills and knowledge during reflection time which enabled them to learn for their colleagues.
4. Time management, they were using time effective where during the morning they used to arrive in wards on time and during the afternoon they all joined the sessions on time.

5. Discipline, all students behaved nicely, no misbehavior case identified.

Reception at Butaro Hospital

1. Excellent hospitality, both students and supervisor were warmly received at Butaro and were provided with meals and accommodation.
2. Visit by Director General (DG) of Butaro hospital, on January 17, 2024 we had a visit with the DG of this hospital and we had a productive talk with him about the professional conduct that should govern the medical doctors and what should be their contribution to the community medicine. He also reminded the students the best medical doctor is the one who is able to commit himself to the patients and be able to satisfy them (patient-centered health care services)

NOTICE: Regarding the first 3 challenges the students are facing, I managed to make a report of that and the recommendations from students and presented this report to Dr. Vincent Cubaka who is the Director of Knowledge in Partners in Health (PIH) and Renzaho Jean Nepomuscene who is the SOCOMED Manager so that they can work on them, if possible, to see if the next group can benefit from that.

Done At Butaro January 19, 2024

By:



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