

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A descriptive comparative design was used to describe the needs and received responses among parents of hospitalized children and compare the needs among parents whose hospitalized children had different age and different types of illness. This chapter presents conclusion of findings, implication for nursing practice and education, and recommendations for further research.

Conclusions

Based on the findings of the present study, the following conclusions are made.

1. The level of parental needs was high. Considering subgroups, information need, need for the best medical care and nursing care for the child, need for parental role, need for emotional support and physical need were high and need for financial support was relatively moderate. For individual items, need for a primary nurse to take care of the child was the most frequently identified by parents of hospitalized children whereas need for financial support for tran-

sportation was least frequently identified by.

2. The level of received responses for parental needs was high. Considering subgroups, received responses for information need, need for the best medical care and nursing care for the child, and need for parental role were high; received responses for need for emotional support and physical need were moderate and received responses for need for financial support was low. For individual items, need the nurse take care of the child frequently received the highest responses; need for financial support for transportation received the lowest responses.

3. The means of total score and score of information needs were different among parents whose hospitalized children belonged to different age groups ($p < 0.05$). The total score of needs of parents of adolescents was lower than parents of infants, toddlers and school age children. The score of information needs of parents of adolescents was lower than parents of infants, toddlers, per-school age children and school age children.

4. The means of total score of needs were not significant different between parents of acutely ill children and parents of chronically ill children. However, the information needs of parents of chronically ill children were higher than parents of acutely ill children.

Implications of findings

Implication for nursing practice

1. The information of the findings provides better understanding of nursing practice. Parents have high need for information about the cause, treatment, prognosis of the disease, need the professionals to provide immediate treatment and primary nursing, need to participate in taking care of the child in the hospital, and need to maintain contact with the significant others to get emotional support. These information in relation to the needs and received responses among parents of hospitalized children is a meaningful guidance to develop appropriate nursing care plan in order to respond to the need of parents. Then they will be able to look after the child in the hospital well.

2. The high congruency of needs and received responses indicated that nurses have paid attention to parental needs, do a satisfied work on explaining information, giving nursing care and value the parental role. However, they should pay more attention on parents' emotional reactions of the child's hospitalization. Although nurses can do little to give direct financial support to parents, they can help parents by giving information of available welfare foundation, health insurance system and other financial resources.

3. The findings also suggest that nurses should pay more attention to give information to parents of younger children and parents of chronically ill children. Parents of toddlers should be concerned more. Parents of acutely ill children should not be ignored because they have the similar special needs with parents of chronically ill children when their children are hospitalized.

4. To nursing administration, nurses should strengthen the cooperation with other departments, improve the physical environment in the wards and hospitals.

Implication for nursing education

Findings of this study provide suggestion for nursing educators to concern more about parents in pediatric nursing and focus on what they need and how to respond to their needs. Nursing students should realize the importance of family-centered care. Nursing process should begin with assessment the individual physical and psychosocial needs of pediatric patients as well as their parents.

Limitations

One of the limitations of the study is that the sample was restricted to the parents of hospitalized children of the three teaching hospitals of SUMS. The second

limitation is the relatively small sample size and non-random sampling method used. The generalization of the findings is therefore limited.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the study be replicated with larger sample size and random sampling to increase its generalization. Further studies can be done in other hospitals in China.

2. A comparative study need to compare the difference of parental needs between fathers and mothers of hospitalized children.

3. Longitudinal study might be a productive means of investigating the change of parents' needs across the time of the children's hospitalization and after discharge.

4. Qualitative studies may provide better understanding in this aspect.