

Submission No. : ADJS2-0003

Session Title : APSN-ISPD Joint Symposium 2

Session Topic : Improving the Time on Peritoneal Dialysis

Date & Time, Place : June 15 (Sat) / 17:00-18:30 / Room 1 (GBR 101 - 102)

Training the PD Nurse for a Successful PD Program

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Introduction: There has been no published randomised controlled trial (RCT) evaluating any specific protocol for nurses delivering PD training and patients being trained. We hypothesised that a standardised education curriculum based upon best available evidence and utilising modern educational practices may lead to improved patient outcomes. This paper outlines the process to develop a standardised, evidence-based curriculum for PD trainers. Methods: A literature search and clinical audit were conducted to identify current practice patterns and best practice that also aligned with guidelines from the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis (ISPD). Delphi technique was used in the development of the "Train the Trainer" curriculum and its supporting material. Results were reviewed by a focus group of practitioners comprising PD nurses, nephrologists, consumers, a medical education expert, and an eLearning expert. Results: A comprehensive PD training curriculum for PD nurse trainers and patients has been developed by kidney nurses, doctors, educational experts and consumers, and, in alignment with the ISPD guidelines, utilizes evidence-based adult learning andragogy and eLearning pedagogy. The curricula were identified as acceptable and usable by clinicians and patients in a feasibility study undertaken in two Australian units and further support the current registry-based, pragmatic, multi-center, binational, cluster-randomized controlled trial (CRCT) to evaluate whether a guideline-informed standardized curricula of PD training for trainers and patients prevents PD-related infections and is cost-effective compared to standard care. Conclusion: There have been no published RCT data evaluating any specific protocol for training PD nurse trainers. It is highly likely that there are unrealised gains to be made for PD clinical outcomes with the adoption of best practice guidelines. A comprehensive PD training curriculum has been developed by experts, utilising adult learning principles and eLearning techniques, following the guidelines outlined by the ISPD.



APCN & KSN 2024

June 13(Thu) - 16(Sun), 2024 Coex, Seoul, Korea



*Promoting Sustainable Kidney Health:
The Asia-Pacific and Beyond*

Keywords: Training, Cluster randomised controlled trial, practice guideline, curriculum