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Creating, implementing and sustaining an inter-professional education for stroke: A link towards collaborative and integrated patient care

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The incidence of stroke in the KSA is expected to be higher in the next decades. The creation of the stroke model of KAMC-Riyadh, as a novel care approach of admitting patients directly to the High Dependency Unit (HSDU), is aimed to improve patient's functional outcome following a stroke. Prior to the launch, a Specialized Stroke Nursing Program (SSNP) using an inter-professional approach was developed and implemented in order to address the nurse's learning needs in stroke care. The aim of the project is to recount the structuring of the SSNP and continuously sustaining it toward a Collaborative Team Model (CTM) is utilized in order to design, implement and sustain a SSNP. The CMT, consisting of nurse specialist, clinical resource nurses and stroke therapists, work cohesively and regularly meet in order to continuously improve the program components and restructuring the learning objectives focusing on patient safety and outcome. The SSNP is up and running since August 2014 and is consistently evaluated after each run. All participants' feedback from the course evaluation was collated and analyzed thematically. The findings of the course evaluation were discussed as a team and made some necessary adjustments if necessary. The SSNP has attended by more than 1000 nurses from emergency, acute medical and stroke units. Six major themes have emerged using the evaluation feedback: The SSNP as (1) a program focusing on patient safety, (2) an inter-professional program promoting a collaborative stroke care, (3) a sustainable program which is relevant not only to stroke patients but to all medical patients, (4) a starting point to improve stroke care and (5) a well-structured program that tailored-made to nurses' learning needs. The creation of the SSNP is a showcase of dedication, passion and commitment of the team in order to provide an inter-professional learning education among nurses. The use of CTM promotes effective communication, coordinated and organized team work. Collaborative team has a direct impact to enhanced and comprehensive stroke care. It has a significant impact on the participant's learning.