HLTEN608A
Practise in the domiciliary health care environment

Learner Resource
Flexible delivery
Version 2

Training and Education Support
Industry Skills Unit
Meadowbank

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Topic 1 Domiciliary health care environment

Domiciliary health care is provided to individuals and families in their homes or a place convenient to the client such as in schools, their work place or an ambulatory clinic. The goal of care is to reduce the premature need for the client to be admitted to an institution such as hospital or an aged care facility. Domiciliary nurses provide care across the age spectrum from the cradle to the grave. Within Australia domiciliary health care is more commonly referred to as home-based or community nursing although other terms have also been used such as district or ambulatory care nursing.

Activity 1

a) List the health care settings where you think domiciliary nursing can occur.

b) Identify the role of each health care setting. (Useful website: Healthy at Home program by NSW Health http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/initiatives/healthyathome/info_patients.asp)
Activity 2

Using the internet or relevant text book or other appropriate resources answer the following:
1. Explain the evolution of nursing in the community in Australia.

2. What is the difference between the roles of the District nurse and the Community nurse?

District nurse:

Community nurse:
Topic 2 Underpinning philosophy of the domiciliary health care environment

The underpinning philosophy of domiciliary/home-based nursing is to promote the wellbeing and independence of clients, enabling them to remain in their homes longer. Over the last 20 years in Australia there has been a significant increase in home-based nursing services.

Australia is shifting health services into the community and this will require more nurses to work in the community and provide care. These services are provided in conjunction with a number of other service providers. All members of the multidisciplinary health care team need to work effectively to ensure the best possible outcomes for the client and significant others. Members of the multidisciplinary team will need to communicate effectively with clients, groups and colleagues. They must participate actively and positively in client case meetings and have an understanding of family relationships and support networks and community services available.

Activity 1

a) Why do you think there has been such an increase in health services provided in the community?
A multidisciplinary team approach is the most useful way in managing the multifaceted problems of clients in their homes and other health care settings.

Members of the multidisciplinary health care team who could be involved in domiciliary care include:

- client and their significant others
- medical staff including specialist services such as palliative care, psychiatric services
- nursing staff including specialist services such as palliative care, psychiatric services
- counsellors: social workers, psychologists
- allied health workers: physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, dietician
- prosthetists
- podiatrists
- drug and alcohol services
- emergency services including ambulance, Royal Flying Doctor Service, CareFlight
- community services such as Home Care, Meals on Wheels, Community Options
- transitional rehabilitation services.
Activity 3

Complete the table on the following pages by highlighting how the role of the member of the multidisciplinary health care team involved in domiciliary/home-based nursing listed above, differs from their roles in a hospital environment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERS</th>
<th>HOME/COMMUNITY</th>
<th>HOSPITAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Client and their significant others</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical staff including specialist services such as palliative care, psychiatric services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing staff including specialist services such as palliative care, psychiatric services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counsellors: social workers, psychologists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physiotherapists</td>
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