Exploring the Experiences of Hospice at Home - Clinical Nurse Specialists working in an Irish Setting.

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BACKGROUND

The Hospice at Home CNSs has a significant role in the delivery of care to patients with life limiting illness at home (Skilbeck and Payne (2003) and is a core member of the MDT providing expert knowledge and skills to patients and other health care professionals (Mulvihill et al 2010; Whittaker et al 2014). However, few studies have examined the experiences of Hospice at Home nurses (Ablett and Jones 2006; Melvin 2012; Tunnah et al 2012) particularly within an Irish setting.

METHODS

Aim
To explore the experiences of Hospice at Home nurses providing specialist palliative care to patients in the community within an Irish setting.

Sample
Eight Hospice at Home Clinical Nurse Specialists (n=8)

Method
Semi structured interviews

Ethics
Approval granted by the University Hospital Limerick Research Ethics Committee.

Data Analysis
The interviews were digitally recorded, transcribed, and a analysed utilising thematic analysis

KEYS FINDINGS

- Becoming a Hospice at Home CNS
  Personal experience
  Professional development.

- Hospice at Home CNS role
  Managing Daily work
  Sharing the journey
  Autonomous practitioner
  Expert communicator.

Role Stressors
Patient care
Organisational Stressors.

Coping Strategies
Peer support
Self-Care.

Developing the Hospice at Home CNS role
Structured Management Support
Caseload Management
Team Building.

CONCLUSIONS

The research study exploring the experiences of Hospice at Home CNSs in Ireland provides an insight into the work, challenges, coping skills and aspirations of Hospice at Home CNS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- This research study provides a foundation for future studies within Ireland.
- It is hoped that it will facilitate a further and more in-depth investigation into the experiences and challenges of members of the MDT, on a national basis. A comparative study could also be carried out on the experiences and challenges faced by rural Hospice at Home CNSs.

REFERENCES


