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EXPLORING THE RISKS OF EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF NURSES RELATED TO THE PREVENTION OF CORONAVIRUS TRANSMISSION

Admission. Coronavirus pandemic can be reasonably regarded as the toughest crisis period in modern development and functioning of health care service [1]. While the infection has been spreading rapidly, the drawbacks and weaknesses of health care sector have been found [3]. At the same time, the search and implementation of new approaches to the provision of medical services during the pandemic took place [2; 3].

Nowadays healthcare facilities continue working under strenuous conditions as they face numerous problems, require additional financial and material governmental support and struggle to strengthen their own potential in order to combat coronavirus transmission [3].

Procedures and safety provisions aimed at prevention of further coronavirus transmission have been developed by healthcare facilities. Municipal Non-profit Institution 'Regional Medical Centre of Mental Health of Zhytomyr Regional Council' is not an exception.

The purpose of the study is to analyze the level of competence of nurses working in a psychiatric department concerning the prevention of coronavirus transmission.

Research methods: system analysis, comparison, generalization, systematization of scientific literature and logical generalization, survey, questionnaire, mathematical approach to data processing. The research was conducted among nurses working at Municipal Non-profit Institution 'Regional Medical Centre of Mental Health of Zhytomyr Regional Council.'

In order to get the results of the research, the following evaluation criteria were developed: low level of knowledge (nurses answered correctly to 60% of questions), satisfactory level (full answers were given to 80-90% of questions), and high level of knowledge (nurses confidently explained the main issues regarding the prevention of coronavirus transmission).

Mathematical processing of numerical outcomes was conducted involving the usage of correlation coefficient (r).

Research findings and further discussion. COVID-19 pandemic challenged mental health service immensely, both medical staff and patients. However, preventive measures aimed at combating coronavirus should not create the environment where patients' rights are violated and their dignity is humiliated. Moreover, treatment methods of mentally ill patients require group work and activities aimed at patients' socialization, but not at increasing the distance. Restrictions that have to protect patients from infection can cause the increase of anxiety, irritation, uneasiness and even aggression among them. That is why a balance between preventive counter-epidemic measures and medical approaches is becoming increasingly important in facility's functioning.

Psychiatric assistance is a set of special measures aimed at prevention, early detection (including preventive examination), diagnosis of mental disorders, treatment, supervision, and care, medical, psychological and social rehabilitation of people, who suffer from mental disorders.

Patients of mental health service have some distinctive characteristics such as high level of disability, distortion of social contacts, social maladjustment, distortion of cognitive functions, limitation of vital functions, existence of accompanying pathology, need of durable in-patient care, low awareness of danger level.

As a result, coronavirus infection among these patients is predicted to cause additional complications.

A nurse constantly maintains the contact with mentally ill patient, knows his or her strengths and weaknesses due to nurse's professional duties and personality traits. While a patient constantly maintains contact with a nurse, he or she trusts him/her, perceives a nurse as friend, a supporter, a coach or a person who can help and protect in a particular situation. A nurse can provide a safety environment in psychiatric department and protect a patient from being infected with coronavirus both by following the counter-epidemic measures and rules and by providing all necessary information regarding COVID-19. It is a nurse who has to teach a patient the main safety measures, prepare him or her to an independent life during the pandemic and explain him or her how to act and with whom to consult in case when the first symptoms of disease appear.

Conducted survey allowed to evaluate the level of competence of nurses working in a psychiatric department about the organization of working process during the coronavirus epidemic.

Nurses working in a psychiatric department (regardless of their qualification) are well aware of incubation period duration and the main clinical symptoms of disease. Nurses who took part in the survey, confidently named the standard security measures, outlined hand washing procedure, and fully explained the meaning of 'social distance' and 'respiratory hygiene'.

However, the questions related to asymptomatic case of disease and the characteristics of groups of people that are the most vulnerable to coronavirus appeared to be complicated.

89,7% of respondents understand that coronavirus spreads via airborne transmission through breathing in droplets containing the virus that are released into the air while coughing or sneezing or while the virus that remains on the surfaces is transmitted to eyes, nose or mouth.

81,3% of respondents pointed that simple disinfectants can kill the virus and prevent the transmission and explained that viruses are not resistant in outer environment and they die immediately under the temperature above 56 degrees, and they are ruined under the influence of chloroform, formaldehyde, ethanol or ester.

The surveyed nurses are concerned about the fact that irregular appearance of new CoV types and outbreaks caused by them appear to be a serious global threat to health. 78,4% of respondents pointed that it is highly probable that due to the climate change, ecological issues and the increase of interactions between human and animals, the new outbreaks of this infection are inevitable.

Conclusion. Conducted research proved the importance of constant professional education of nursing professionals by the organization of training sessions regarding the issues of coronavirus transmission prevention in medical facilities.

Nowadays it is becoming extremely necessary to provide the constant information support of nurses in order to make sure that they carry out their duties safely during the coronavirus pandemic.

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