

Development of Taiwan Guideline of Cancer Pain Management

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In Taiwan, Management of cancer pain for advanced cancer patients has attracted increasing attention from health care providers as well as from the government. Consequently, the Department of Health of Taiwan called for proposal to develop a national guideline of cancer pain management for hospice palliative care to assist medical practitioners to practice on right way. The Department of Health then assigned Professor Chia-Chün Lin, Ph.D., RN, Taipei Medical University as the leader of this project. This guideline was developed by a multidisciplinary panel, consisting of Palliative Care Physicians, Oncologists, Anesthesiologists, Nurse Specialists, and Scholars. The development of the guideline of cancer pain management for hospice palliative care included two phases: (A) development phase (from September 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998; with budget around 14,853 U.S. dollars) and (B) modification phase (from April 1, 1999 to June 30, 1999; with budget about 3,533 U.S. dollars).

(A) Development phase :

The development phase was to establish the credibility and feasibility of the guideline. The major steps involved in this phase included:

- (1) Panel meetings: More than 10 meetings has been held
- (2) Extensive literature searches: Literature form Taiwan and from the worldwide was reviewed and summarized.
- (3) Peers review & fields review: After the guideline draft was written, every chapter was reviewed by peers and experts in the field
- (4) Test use in palliative care units: After the guideline draft was modified with the comments from the peers and the experts, this draft was tested by medical practitioners in several palliative care units. In addition, twenty physician specialists and nurses offered their comments as well.

(B) Modification phase :

After the guideline draft was presented to the Department of Health, a national public audit was held on January 4, 1999. A total of 28 experts nationwide were invited together to have a final review of this Guideline. Fifteen major comments were concluded. A modification was then proceeded for the guideline draft as the comments offered. The final version of the "Guideline of Cancer Pain Management for Hospice Palliative Care "was accomplished and published on December 1990 for nationwide clinicians use.