

Development and evaluation of a training program to improve young home care nurses' ability to practice end-of-life care at home

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To develop a training program aimed at improving the ability of home health care nurses to practice end-of-life care at home, we conducted a qualitative study. We interviewed home health care nurses with a few years of experience (young home care nurses). They experienced difficulties in predicting changing symptoms, decision-making support, multidisciplinary cooperation, and dealing with the fluctuating thoughts of clients and their families. In response to these difficulties, they learned from senior nurses' specific ways to respond, how to understand the reasons for the statements and actions of clients and their families, and how to predict change. Experiencing good practice influenced a shift in the perception that there is no correct answer to end-of-life care at home. In the training program, it was suggested that it is essential for young visiting nurses to practice and that it is necessary to teach them specific means of trying to know changes in symptoms and thoughts of clients and their families. Furthermore, the ease of consultation in the workplace influenced the practice of end-of-life care, suggesting the need to develop the program to include the creation of a workplace atmosphere.