

The Provision of Specific Diseases/Disorders Management for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Living in Institutions in Taiwan

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper was to examine the healthcare management of special diseases or disorders for persons with intellectual disabilities living in institutions. These diseases or disorders included epilepsy, psychiatric disorder, dental diseases, and nutritious disorder. A structured questionnaire involved 121 stakeholders out of 157 intellectual disability institutions in Taiwan was used to measure the healthcare management provision within the institutions. The study revealed that most of the institutions were capable to manage the special diseases or disorders for persons with intellectual disabilities in institutions. The results also stated that the respondents were more confident with the management of epilepsy than other diseases or disorders due to their practical experiences in institutions. The employment of nursing staff was related to the effective management of epilepsy and nutritious disorder. However, the sound management of psychiatric disorder still out of the staff's imagination even employed the experienced nursing staff in institutions. This study highlights that the welfare and healthcare authorities should work together to overcome the barriers of effective management of special diseases or disorders for persons with intellectual disabilities living in institutions.

Key words: Health care management, institution, intellectual disability, specific disease, Taiwan