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Poster Abstract

An integrative model for memory clinic

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Abstract

In 2012, 9.9% of Singapore was aged 65 years and above, a remarkable contrast to 3.4% in 1970 and 7.2% in 2000 [1]. In response to this unprecedented increase, and in accordance with government's directive of providing efficient, cost-effective and easily accessible healthcare services [2], the National University Health System has established an enhanced Memory Clinic model.

The model focuses on improving service for patients through care provided by a multi-disciplinary team. Through preliminary triage, patients benefit from consultation with the appropriate doctor for their respective conditions (Neurologists, Geriatricians or Psychogeriatricians), allowing both time and monetary savings as they consult a single rather than multiple doctors. Neuropsychological assessments are conducted by clinical psychologists upon doctors' requests.

Patients' psychosocial needs are handled by care coordinators and medical social workers, who provide psychoeducation and coordinate care plans for patients and their families. Shared care programmes are in place to ensure smooth continuity during medical and social transitions. A collaboration with Choa Chu Kang Polyclinic was initiated, which could eventually be implemented at the other polyclinics if successful.

Through this new model, we hope to provide better care which is sensitive to the medical, financial and social needs of elderly and their family.

Keywords:

ageing, dementia, memory clinic, healthcare, shared care, integrated care

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