Keynote lectures

1421

THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH CANCER IN THE COMMUNITY

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This paper explores the needs of families of children with cancer outside the hospital setting. The needs will vary according to the stage of the disease and are likely to be greatest when the child is receiving palliative care.

The following points will be discussed:

• Family centred care—empowerment of the parents and the child through ongoing education and support.

• Bridging the gap between the specialist unit and the carers in the community and the promotion of shared care with regional paediatritc units. The role of the peripatetic nurse specialist.

• Palliative care—results of a recent survey of 43 children who died at home.

1422

QUALITY—TO ASSURE OR IMPROVE? ACHIEVING THE GOALS IN CANCER NURSING CARE

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Nursing initiatives at the European level to explore issues relating to quality will be identified and reviewed. Particular attention will be paid to the establishment and subsequent activities of EUROQUAN—the European Association for Quality Assurance in Nursing—and its impact in raising awareness about quality issues in nursing across national frontiers.

Methods for evaluating quality and developing standards in nursing will be briefly outlined and their application to cancer nursing discussed. Examples of recent developments in France will be used to demonstrate how these processes have been applied in practice.

It will be shown that traditional quality assurance methods have not been entirely successful in their application in France and the reasons for this will be explained. It will be argued further that for France a system of continuous quality improvement has been shown to offer the greatest potential for success. The principal elements of continuous quality improvement will be described and examples of its successful implementation in the Francophone countries of Western Europe will be given.