

THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 1999

Teaching Lecture

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Recent developments in palliative care

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Palliative care continues to aspire to The World Health Definition as laid down in 1990 (World Health Organisation, Tech. Report Series 804, Geneva 1990)

This lecture proposes to explore recent developments in the broad context of changing international practices, focussing on the strategic value of, and changes to, palliative nursing in Ireland. It will consider how changing trends at a national level have impacted on clinical nursing practice. Topics to be covered include:

Specialist Palliative care vs palliative approach: the role of clinical nurse specialist and educational development.

The development of community based palliative care teams.

Hospital based palliative care teams.

The development of day care facilities as support service Implications of the Irish National Cancer Strategy (1998).

Critical appraisal of recent clinical innovations in palliative care practice.

This presentation suggests that nursing is pivotal to the development of palliative care services because of its ability to transcend the boundaries of professional disciplines in multidisciplinary practice (Stjernswärd 1996)

Approximately 10 minutes will be allowed at the end of the presentation for discussion on the themes raised.

Plenary Lecture

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Cancer nursing in the new millennium: Non-persons or the people in the big house

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Nurses account for the largest group of health care professionals in cancer care yet the impact they have in relation to patient outcomes is largely unknown. It is clear that if nursing is to continue to develop in the next millennium this situation cannot continue. With the growing body of cancer nursing research in Europe nurses have a real opportunity to demonstrate their real value in contemporary cancer care. That nurses are socially and professionally socialised into a subservient position within the health care system is well recognised. However the shifting balance of health care, which will continue into the new millennium, offers nurses the potential to operate at varying levels within health care. This will enable nurses to negate the political impotence of nursing which has hitherto resulted in the contribution of professional nurses being undermined. With rigorous scientific development and collaboration with colleagues across Europe we have the capacity to be a significant force in improving outcomes for patients with cancer.