

## Medical Social Work in Palliative Care: What have we learnt from 324 cases in Hong Kong?

從324個服務使用者剖析香港寧養社會工作

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## Medical Social Work (MSW) in Palliative Care



... Effective palliative care requires a broad multidisciplinary approach that includes the family and makes use of available community resources...

(WHO, 2009).

## What is the Unique Role of MSW in Palliative Care?



What have we offered?

## Methods of Data Collection

STUDY 1	STUDY 2	STUDY 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Focus groups</li> <li>15 MSWs participated</li> <li>Exploration of work done, challenges faced, and core competence of MSW in PC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 bereaved family members</li> <li>Exploration of services received, roles and responsibilities of MSW in PC, characteristics of good MSW and service gap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 MSS departments, mining data of 324 cases</li> <li>Exploration of needs and services provision for patients in 2009</li> </ul>
Focus Groups with MSWs	Interviews with users	Clinical Data Mining

## Presentation in 2010

- STUDY 1
- 2 Focus groups
- 15 MSWs participated
- Exploration of work done, challenges faced, and core competence of MSW in PC


Focus Groups with MSWs



周身刀、張張利?

## Study 1: Focus Group Study (Findings)

Major Work done by MSS in PC are



The items are used in study 3 clinical data mining

### Clinical Data Mining<sup>1</sup>

#### STUDY 3

- 9 MSS departments, mining data of 324 cases
- Exploration of needs and services provision for patients in 2009

#### Clinical Data Mining



#### Source of Data :

- All MSS units in Hong Kong that provide services to PC patients are invited
- 9 MSS units spread over 5 clusters (HK, KW, KC, KE, NTE) participated in this study
- For each unit, the 1<sup>st</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> case received on each month in 2009 is drawn, summing up to 324 cases in the data analysis

<sup>1</sup> Epstein, I. (2001). Using Available clinical information in practice-based research: Mining for silver while dreaming of gold. *Social Work in Health Care*, 33(3-4), 15-32

### Findings: Background of the patients (N=324)

	n	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	163	50.5%
Female	160	49.5%
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	181	56.0%
Never Married	27	8.4%
Separated/Divorced	21	6.5%
Widowed	93	28.8%
Cohabitated	1	0.3%

	Range	Mean	S.D	Median
Age	29 - 92	69.42	14.61	73
No. of Children in HK	0 - 9	2.47	1.47	2
No. of Children outside HK	0 - 6	0.40	0.87	0

### Findings: Background of the patients (N=324)

	n	%
<b>Living Arrangement</b>		
Family members	222	68.9
Long term care facilities	49	15.2
Alone	45	14.0
Other relatives	2	0.6
Domestic Helper	4	1.2
<b>Major Financial Source</b>		
Support from family members	159	49.4
Social Security	98	30.4
Savings	50	15.5
Pension	9	2.8
Returns from personal investment	2	0.6
Others	4	1.2

-Majority are living with and depending on family members  
 -- PC treats family as unit of care  
 -Role of MSW in family work

### Findings: Background of the patients (N=324)

	n	%
<b>Sources of Referral</b>		
Medical Team at the Same Hospital	292	90.4
Self-Approach	13	4.0
Medical Team of another hospital	12	3.7
Others	5	1.5
NGOs	1	0.3
<b>Refusal of MSW services</b>		
No	319	98.5
First refused, but eventually accepted	4	1.2

-Medical team recognizes the role of MSW in PC  
 -MSW services is not rejected by patients and families

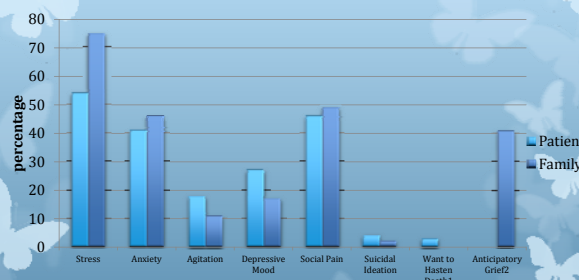
### Findings: Background of the patients (N=324)

	n	%
<b>Primary Dx</b>		
Cancer	318	98.1
Renal Failure	4	1.3
Others	1	0.3

	Range (days)	Mean	S.D	Median
Total Days for Inpatient PC after MSW Intake	0 - 410	35.68	47.79	22.0
Duration between intake and death at MSS	-320 - 748	98.61	146.00	37
Duration between intake and close case at MSS	3 - 581	155.44	158.22	73.5
Duration between death and close case at MSS	-91 - 509	56.83	104.37	24.5

-There are only short duration for MSW to provide services (median of 37 days before death and 24.5 days after death)  
 -With the help of MSSS, some cases are only referred after death (the case of -19). Some cases issues are settled before death, thus the case is closed before death (the case of -91)

### Findings: Psychosocial Distress of Patients and Families (N=324)



<sup>1</sup> Want to Hasten Death applied to patient only  
<sup>2</sup> Anticipatory grief applied to family only

